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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Two killed in motorway crash horror

Men-Aces six to trial for GB squad

BOXING CLUB RISES FROM THE ASHES!

Revamped gym and training facility is back up and running again 18 months after arson attack

Report by **Henry James**

MEMBERS and officials of a Skelmersdale boxing club have showed their fighting spirit outside of the ring by bouncing back from a devastating bodyblow.

The future looked grim for Birch Green ABC when its headquarters in Heversham was targeted by arsonists 18 months ago.

But the club has now reopened after a six-figure rebuild and they are seeking to attract new members to make full use of the improved facilities.

The fire, in July 2017, was a hammer blow for Colin Day and his son, Colin junior, who ran the facility for all ages.

Just prior to the arson attack, members and supporters had raised more than £20,000 with the help of grants and various events to pay for a new roof, shower facilities, two boxing rings and new equipment, including bags and gloves.

Colin senior said: "Basically we have had to rebuild the gym since the fire because of the smoke damage.

"We have put in new equipment, a new ring, new sauna, new showers and have bought new boxing gloves. The gym is also matted now.

"The gym is much better now. A total of £100,000 has been spent on the building, along with £6,000 on equipment. The money came from a combination of an insurance pay-out and fundraising efforts

"To be honest, after the fire we didn't think we would be able to reopen - so it has been an achievement to get to this point.

Open day

"But we didn't let the setback get us down and we intend to come back stronger. We are like a phoenix rising from ashes.

"We want to teach local kids boxing and hopefully some future champions will come from the gym as we now have more coaches.

"We want to give something back to the local community and those people who helped with fundraising, including coach, James Murray."

To relaunch the gym the club is inviting children and their parents to inspect the facilities at an open day on Saturday (January 12) from noon until 2pm.

Opening times for the boxing training are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5 to 7pm, starting from Monday, January 14. Sessions cost £2 for juniors (aged nine to 16) and £4 for seniors (aged 17 and upwards).

● **Above: Colin Day senior at the newly-restored Birch Green ABC.**

● **Right: Colin Day junior outside the club after the fire in 2017.**

Aaron Crest Care Home residents with some of the 200-plus Christmas cards they received following an appeal in the Champ.

Great response to care home cards appeal

STAFF at a Skelmersdale care home were overwhemed by the response to an appeal in the Champion for members of the public to include residents on their Christmas card list.

Management at the Aaron Crest home in Tanhouse Road issued a plea for members of the local community to send cards to the elderly residents some of whom have no relatives.

The response was fantastic with more than 200 cards delivered and proudly displayed around the home. Included among the deliveries were handmade cards from pupils at Holland Moor Primary School after teachers saw the appeal in the Champ.

And one card event found its way to the home from the Channel Islands!

Adrienne Ratcliffe, manager at Aaron Crest Care Home, said: "We have been overwhelmed with the generosity and kindness of everyone who sent residents a Christmas card. They have brought lots of smiles and joy to the home and the residents have had great fun opening them and reading them to each other. Christmas can be a lonely time for those with no family and friends and something as simple as a card can make all the difference."

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Woman and teenager killed in M58 crash horror

90-year-old and two men seriously injured in second collision on same stretch of motorway

A WOMAN and a 14-year-old boy died in one of two collisions which took place on the M58 in West Lancashire yesterday (Tuesday, January 8).

The pair were involved in the first incident which happened at about 8.45am between junctions 3 (Bickerstaffe) and 4 (Skelmersdale) and involved a number of vehicles including an HGV and a minibus.

It also saw a man in his 60s taken to the major trauma unit at Aintree Hospital, while another teenager is also being treated in hospital.

As the Champion went to press no other details could be released as the police were contacting next of kin.

Police have said: "A number of other people also suffered serious injuries and are being treated at hospital."

The driver of the HGV, a 31-year-old-man from Chorley, has been arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and was in custody on Tuesday evening.

A second collision took place shortly after on the same stretch, at 10.15am, this time involving an HGV, a van and a car.

As a result of this second collision a woman in her 90s suffered serious injuries and two men were also seriously injured.

A post on Lancashire Police's social media read: "We are working closely with partner agencies and the motorway remains closed in both directions for accident investigations. Diversions are in place.

"Our thoughts are with all of those affected by today's tragic incidents. Anyone who is concerned that someone they know may have been involved and who needs to speak to police can call 101 quoting log number 0523 of today (Tuesday, January 8).

"Anyone with information about either collision is asked to call 101 quoting a different log number, 275 of today (Tuesday, January 8)."

A post on the Skelmersdale Police social media site added: "Please be aware that we are currently at the scene of a collision involving multiple vehicles on the M58.

"A full closure is in place between J3 at Bickerstaffe and J4 at Skelmersdale in both directions. Please avoid the area where possible. The closure will be in place for some time so please bear with us."

Emergency services at the scene on the M58.

Stop and search order put in place in centre of town after stabbing and disturbance

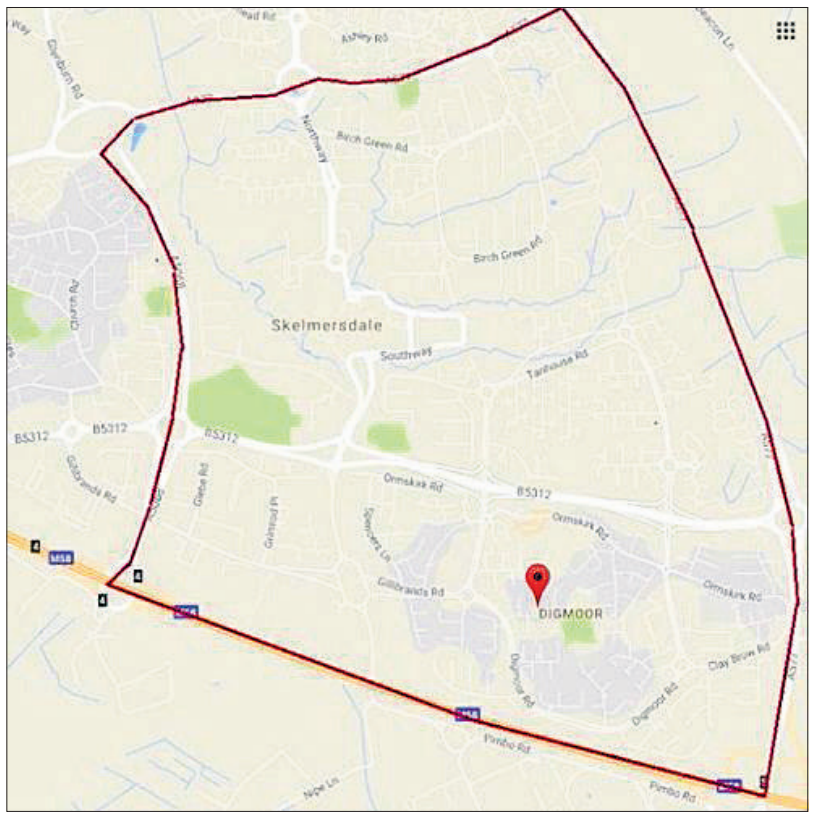
Report by **Henry James**

A LARGE area of central Skelmersdale was placed under a Section 60 stop and search order last week after a man was stabbed in Ashurst and a further disturbance in Tanhouse.

The order - covering an area from Houghton's Road in the north to the M58 in the south and from Glenburn Road in the west to Stannanought Road in the east - was in place until 3am on Friday, January 4.

When such an order is issued, police can search anyone in a certain area for weapons without the need for prior suspicion, thereby lowering the legal threshold considerably.

In a post on social media Skelmersdale Police said the disturbance in Tanhouse took place on the evening of Wednesday, January 2; while the Ashurst stabbing happened the week previously.



The area of Skelmersdale (bordered in red) which was placed under the Section 60 stop and search order.

Heightened risk

A spokesman for Skelmersdale Police said: "The power to search people in such circumstance is not something we take lightly; we make this decision only when we feel there is a heightened risk to the public.

"We need to strike a fair and justified balance between safeguarding the public, and being viewed to be oppressive.

"The Government's guidance on 'Best Use of Stop Search' also dictates that we must notify the public prior to enforcing such an order.

"While this may seem counterproductive, it is done prior to the implementation to advise the public of what is undoubtedly a huge change in their human rights.

"The police also have a duty of care to the public to notify them of what is a perceived rise in the risk of harm. The implementation and advertisement of a section 60 is a response employed to act as both a deterrent for further incident and a tactic for detecting those committing crime.

"It is not a power which can be used without a clear justification due to the implications it can carry.

"We work closely with our partners at West Lancashire Borough Council to ensure any persons convicted of knife crime are considered for eviction from any local authority housing.

"Please ensure that this message is communicated amongst your household if you feel someone within it may carry a knife. Please help us to help you, if you have any information which could help protect the public we encourage you to contact us on 101 or alternatively via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

MP criticises rail company for failure to provide replacement services during strikes

WEST Lancs Rosie Cooper has slammed Northern Rail for its failure to supply rail replacement buses for services in West Lancashire during the ongoing strike action by members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers union.

Ms Cooper said that despite being given advance notice of the recurring Saturday strikes by the RMT, the rail company had refused to provide any replacement services.

She said that her constituents in the Pimbo area who would normally use services from Up Holland rail station for links to Kirkby and Wigan, had been particularly badly affected being left with no access to public transport at all on Saturdays as there is not even a bus service to rely on.

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper

Unsatisfactory

The MP took up the matter with Lancashire County Council as the transport authority, who stated that "it is the responsibility of the rail operator to make contingency plans by, for example, providing replacement bus services for rail strikes."

She said: "Northern are well aware of the issues they face at the moment providing a wholly unsatisfactory service to passengers for the most part of 2018 and at loggerheads with their own staff over train safety.

"Residents in areas such as Pimbo rely on public transport to keep themselves connected but there seems to be scant regard shown to them by Northern Rail as they didn't even have the decency to acknowledge the concerns I raised with them.

"They seem more intent on pointing fingers at the RMT without addressing the fact they are leaving residents stranded.

"Northern needs to consider their passengers and how their lack of service will affect them as a company in the future."

A Northern spokesperson responded: "Every day of RMT strike action, we do everything we can to keep customers on the move, whether on our trains via a special strike timetable, through tickets accepted on other train operators, on Arriva buses across the north of England, or with rail replacement bus services.

"We met with Rosie Cooper MP last week to provide an update on performance and the RMT dispute."

● Northern boss defends company's right to run franchise - page 21.

Women's refuge founder awarded MBE

Report by **Henry James**

ELEANOR Maddocks, who founded the West Lancashire Women's Refuge in Skelmersdale 30 years ago, has been awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours List for services to victims of domestic violence and abuse in the borough.

In recent years the refuge has been renamed the Liberty Centre to encompass the other services they offer, including outreach workers for adults, children and men who have been victims of domestic violence.

For three decades, up to her retirement in September 2017, Eleanor - who set up the refuge following her own personal experiences - was the driving force behind the centre.

Speaking as she prepared to step down from her role she warned that there was still a need for more Government support and more places across the country to help women who have been the victims of domestic violence.

Eleanor Maddocks at her retirement in 2017.

She told the Champion at the time: "Having to say 'no' to families over the years and telling them we couldn't accommodate them has been very difficult. We can only cater for so many.

"At refuges up and down the county there should be more spaces available. There should be more provision.

"Two women a week are murdered as a result of domestic violence in this country and there have been many unnecessary deaths over the years. Refuges should receive central funding from the Government.

"It can also have a traumatic effect on children as well. Children can witness the abuse, or they can be abused themselves."

The refuge was lent its first unit in the summer of 1987 by a taxi firm in Liverpool Road, Skelmersdale, while Eleanor and colleagues had the job of fundraising and collecting clothes for women who had been victims of domestic abuse.

Magistrate Jeanne Kenyon from Ormskirk was also awarded an MBE in the New year Honours List for services to the administration of justice.

Vets group aim to promote benefits of walking football

SKELMERSDALE Veterans' Association has teamed up with Wigan Athletic Community Trust to stage a conference on the benefits of walking football.

The conference will be held at the Evermoor Hub, Digmoor on Saturday, February 16 from 12.30 to 5.30pm.

A number of different agencies have been invited including: ICAN West Lancashire, the Veterans' Cafe, the Royal British Legion, and Lancashire Fire and Rescue.

And the veterans will also be running a five-a-side walking football session once a week. For more information about the sessions email Chairsva@outlook.com or call 07939 660 048.

All ex-servicemen and women living in the Skelmersdale area are welcome to join the Veterans' Association. Meetings are held at the Buff's Community Club in Ormsirk Road, Skelmersdale every second Sunday of the month starting at 2pm.

The association's AGM will also be held at the Buff's on Sunday, January 13 starting at 1pm.

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Six-week consultation on Burscough Parish Neighbourhood Plan gets underway today

RESIDENTS, businesses and landowners in and around Burscough are being encouraged to give their views on a proposed new plan for their local area.

The Burscough Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Burscough Parish Council in consultation with the local community and has now been passed to West Lancs Council to take forward for examination in line with national legislation.

The proposed plan contains a vision, objectives and planning policies for the Burscough parish area, covering a time period to 2027. If approved it would shape what development takes place in the future and where; what new buildings will be expected to look like; what new infrastructure may be needed; and which sites, such as open spaces, should be protected.

A six-week public consultation is taking place on the neighbourhood plan from today (Wednesday, January 9) until Wednesday, February 20, during which time comments are invited. This is open to anyone but the borough council would particularly like to hear the views of people living and working in Burscough.

Councillor John Hodson.

Once the consultation ends the neighbourhood plan and responses received will be sent to an independent examiner who will consider if the plan is satisfactory. If so, there will then be a referendum for people living in the Burscough parish area to decide if they are in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan.

If a majority are in favour, the plan would be adopted as borough council policy and used to determine planning applications in the Burscough parish area alongside the West Lancashire Local Plan and other local and national planning policies.

Councillor John Hodson, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for planning, said: "The Burscough Parish Neighbourhood Plan, drafted by Burscough Parish Council, is the first such plan to be produced in West Lancashire. The parish council have spent a significant amount of time working with the local community to decide the content of the plan. The public consultation is a great opportunity for residents, businesses and landowners to have a further say upon the neighbourhood plan and shape the future of the local area."

To see a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan and find out how to give your views go to the website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/neighbourhood-planning.

Paper copies and response forms can also be obtained from Burscough Library, Martland Mill and the Grove Community Centre, as well as West Lancs Council offices at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk. For more information ring 01695 585194 to speak to a council officer.

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Girls football tournament wins recognition for commitment to good causes and community

Report by **Henry James**

THE Skem Athletic National Girls football tournament, which has raised somewhere in the region of £50,000 for a range of good causes over the years, has received the Community Award from Lancashire FA - beating more than 300 other nominees.

Organisers of the tournament, Michael Vella and Colin Storey, were invited to the Lancashire FA headquarters in Leyland to receive the award.

Michael Vella said: "We are delighted that our commitment to football and our local community has resulted in this prestigious award which we are very proud to on behalf of Skem Athletic.

"The dedication and hard work of a group of local volunteers that goes into making the tournament the success it is, is breathtaking.

"Without that commitment something as big as this event would not be possible. I am truly humbled by these incredible people, who over the years, have given up thousands of hours of their free time"

Michael Vella and Colin Storey with the Lancashire FA Community Award.

The Skem Athletic National Girls tournament has been running in Skelmersdale for the last 12 years and has been covered by Sky TV for the last two.

Every year more than 100 teams from all over the UK come to the town to compete in what is the country's biggest girls football tournament. An estimated 16,000-plus players are believed to have taken part since the tournament was launched.

Main sponsor of the popular event for the last four years been CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) the John Marshall Memorial Fund.

John was a promising footballer from Ormskirk who died from an undiagnosed heart condition at 16 - a day before he was due to sign forms with Everton. His devastated family then began a campaign urging young people to have cardiac screening.

Incredible

John's mum, Maureen is a leading light in the charity and Michael Vella added: "Maureen is an incredible woman who provides free heart screenings to our community and deserves a special mention."

This June will see the event held for the 12th time and it is hoped that Sky will once again be in attendance.

Michael Vella concluded: "Skelmersdale gets a lot of bad press from people who don't know the town. I've lived here all my life and events like ours and other community events and clubs across our town are putting Skelmersdale on the map in a good way - long may it continue."

The Men-Aces players selected for Team GB trials.

Men-Aces six invited to trial for Team GB squad

SIX members of Skem Men-Aces have been invited to travel to Yorkshire for Mencap Team GB trials with a chance to represent the country at the Euros in Geneva, Switzerland in June.

The six are Haydn Pulford, Stephen Rimmer, James Hughes, Darryl Morris, Theo Duke and Mathew Coppell.

Men-Aces coaches, Carl and Mim Eaton, said: "Once again this is a fantastic opportunity for our lads, and a massive honour for not only the club and the players, but also for Skelmersdale.

"The trials are well attended by hundreds across all corners of the UK, and just to be chosen for the trials is an honour and a wonderfully exciting experience.

"It's also a tense occasion for the lads who have to showcase their football ability under the watchful eye of the Team GB coaches who look at all aspects of their game, including their attitude on and off the pitch.

"Over the last few years the Men-Aces have had seven players who have represented Team GB and each and every one of them has said it's like a dream come true.

"For them it's an emotional journey - from getting picked, their first time flying, first time abroad and playing in front of large crowds against many other different nationalities to simply eating different foods and singing the national anthem.

"We would like to wish the six lads all the luck in the world and to say how proud we are of them all."

Junk Food Café celebrates second birthday

SKELMERSDALE'S first 'pay-as-you-feel' café is celebrating its second birthday this month.

The Junk Food Café, based at the Ecumenical Centre and the Tanhouse Community Centre, uses food that otherwise would have been wasted to provide nourishing home-cooked meals.

Tesco in Burscough, Marks and Spencer in Ormskirk and Lidl in Standish have all donated goods to the volunteer-run enterprise as part of their waste reduction programmes.

Volunteers recently staged two festive season parties at the Ecumenical Centre and the Tanhouse Community Centre.

Group co-ordinator, David Scott, said: "This was the second year we have held Christmas parties with 86 attending at the Tanhouse Community Centre and 75 at the Ecumenical Centre and the feedback from the community was amazing.

Exceeded

"We intercept food that is going to be chucked out from the supermarkets and we were given meat from local butchers. We started planning for this event in October and it exceeded expectations.

"Father Christmas made a visit and we had a raffle with prizes from different organisations. The events were good for the kids and those who came were able to go away with a bag of shopping."

Guests and volunteers at the Junk Food Café Christmas lunch at Tanhouse Community Centre.

The Junk Food café was initiated by The Birchwood Centre, and when it was launched it was supported by community volunteers, West Lancashire College, Oaks Church in Tanhouse and Tanhouse Community Enterprise.

At the time Stella Connell from Birchwood said: "We are really astounded by the success of the project."

Macmillan Centre staff sign up as Dementia Friends

STAFF and service users from the Macmillan Information Centre in the Concourse shopping centre in Skelmersdale are among the latest recruits to the Dementia Friends initiative.

They took part in a special session as part of the scheme which aims to change the way people think, act and talk about dementia and have a better understanding about people living with dementia and how they can help and make their communities more dementia-friendly.

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Whalleys site homes plan recommended for council approval

Report by **Henry James**

An aerial view of the proposed site layout.

PLANS to build 120 homes at land to the north of Cobbs Clough, Whalleys Road, Skelmersdale have been recommended for approval by officers at West Lancashire Borough Council.

The reserved matters application, submitted by applicant Trafford Housing Trust and L & Q Developments LLP, will be discussed at the meeting of the council's planning committee meeting tomorrow (Thursday, January 10).

The application site relates to a parcel of undeveloped greenfield land in north Skelmersdale, which is next to Ashurst and about 2km north of the town centre.

This site is one of four parcels of land located in Whalleys and within the Skelmersdale settlement boundary which is allocated for residential development. The site is grassed at the moment and has trees and hedges on its boundaries.

To the east on Dalton Park (Newton Drive and Newby Drive) there are residential properties and a small play area, separated by dense trees and shrubbery.

Cobbs Clough woodland is to the south and residential properties (Rowan Lane, Briars Green and Middlewood) beyond.

There will be access to the site which is directly off an existing roundabout at the junction of Cobbs Brow Lane and Whalleys Road, the principle of which has previously been approved under the outline permission for the site.

The proposed development would feature 36 detached and semi-detached bungalows offering a mix of two, three and four bedroom properties.

A total of 36 properties (six x two-bed bungalows, 12 x two-bed semi-detached houses and 18 x three-bed houses) will be provided as affordable homes, equating to 30% of the total number of dwellings proposed.

All the proposed properites have private gardens and private driveways or garages.

Outline planning permission for residential development on this site has already been granted for up to 630 dwellings on August 28 2014 and incorporated four parcels of land, together with open space and landscaping.

This is the third parcel of land to come forward for development and was indicated in the outline permission as Whalleys Site 2.

In his planning report for the meeting, West Lancs Council's director of development and regeneration services John Harrison, wrote in summary: "It is considered that the proposed development is acceptable in terms of layout, housing mix, appearance and scale and that the proposed landscaping scheme will assimilate the development into its surroundings.

"I am satisfied that the proposed development would allow for the provision and retention of reasonable levels of amenity for the occupants of future and neighbouring properties. I find that the proposed development is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Local Plan in respect of drainage, highways and ecology."

Moorside Community Primary School headteacher Christine Howard was given a rousing send-off by pupils when she retired at the end of last term after 13-and-half-years at the helm.

School bids fond farewell to retiring headteacher

STAFF and pupils at Moorside Community Primary School have bid a fond farewell to headteacher Christine Howard who retired at the end of last term.

Christine, who stepped down after 13-and-half years at the school in Back Lane, Holland Moor, said: "I am grateful for my time as headteacher at Moorside and couldn't be more proud of the children if they were my own.

"I have said it many times that there is something special about a Moorside child,

"I have been quite relentless in wanting to prove that if your expectations are high then children respond by achieving even more than you asked of them. That's why at Moorside children really do work their socks off.

"Although I am looking forward to my retirement in Wales I will never forget my time at Moorside Academy.

"I would like to thank the parents for sending their precious children here and for their continued support.

"Thanks also to the staff for their dedication and hard work and to the children for being simply wonderful."

All aboard for a feast of fun . . . youngsters on the Mellors bus

Catering company launches meals on wheels service with a difference!

STAFF at a Skelmersdale catering company are gearing up to provide meals on wheels with a difference!

Mellors Catering Services based at White Moss Business Park, which supplies tailored menus for staff restaurants, schools and colleges, is preparing to launch its Mellors Bus.

The traditional, double-decker bus is kitted out with a kitchen facility, serving hatch and upstairs dining area for 32 people.

Starting this month, it will tour schools and business and industry sites across the North of England, the Midlands and Wales to provide an extra-special dining experience serving up hearty meals.

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Rail passengers hit with inflation-busting fare rises

...but Merseyrail chiefs say network is still most affordable in UK

Report by **Henry James**

Merseyrail fares are up by 2.9% but network is still country's most affordable and punctual, says company.

RAIL passengers were hit with above inflation increases to ticket prices from January 1 - but Merseyrail chiefs say it continues to be 'the most affordable and most punctual network in the country.'

Fares on Merseyrail, which operates services between Ormskirk and Liverpool, have risen by an average of 2.9%, while long-suffering passengers on Northern Rail, who have faced a year of delays, cancellations and ongoing strike action, have seen the average price of tickets increase by 3.2%.

Bosses at Merseyrail defended the move and said they 'still offer some of the lowest fares on the railway.'

Its Day Saver ticket, which offers unlimited travel after 9.30am on weekdays and anytime on weekends and bank holidays, has risen by just 1.9% to £5.30 for an adult all-zone ticket; while operator added that its Family Ticket price has been frozen at £11 for a third consecutive year.

Merseyrail's commercial director, Suzanne Grant, said: "Merseyrail continues to be the most affordable and the most punctual network in the country. 98% of fares are reinvested back in to the railway, which enables further improvements to be made to the network so that we can continue to deliver a reliable and robust service for our passengers."

A spokesperson for Northern Rail commented: "We understand that these are difficult financial times for our customers, which is why we will continue to work with the Government and the wider rail industry to drive down the cost of running the railway to provide better long-term value for money for passengers and taxpayers."

The rises were blasted by offocials of the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union, which is involved in a long-running dispute with Northern over the future role of guards on trains.

The union says that its research shows rail fares have risen almost 50% faster than inflation since privatisation with nearly half of passenger revenue going to foreign-owned rail companies.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said: "A quarter of a century of rail privatisation has seen rail fares rise significantly faster than inflation, which instead of improving British rail has been used to boost the coffers of foreign rail. Last year alone foreign rail firms made more than £100m in profits on the backs of rail passengers in the UK.

"It is beyond comprehension that after a year of rail meltdown and passenger misery Chris Grayling (Transport Secretary) has once again not lifted a finger to take action to curb fare rises and provide some relief to passengers."

However, Mr Grayling responded by accusing the unions of driving the increase in fares. He said: "The reality is the fare increases are higher than they should be because the unions demand - with threats of rail strikes if they don't get them - higher pay rises than anybody else."

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Footgolf course plan for Beacon Centre

Report by **Henry James**

SERCO Leisure has submitted plans to build a nine-hole footgolf course at the Beacon Park Golf Centre in Dalton.

The application, which been recommended for approval by West Lancs Council officers, seeks permission to remove stockpiled in-fill from the former golf driving range at Beacon Park to form the footgolf course.

It will be discussed at a meeting of the authority's planning committee tomorrow (Thursday).

Serco is also proposing to retrospectively regularise earthworks carried out to form a linear series of landscape mounds on the southern fringe of the centre's 18-hole golf course and seek minor amendments of previously approved enhancements to the southern part of the course, including land level increases.

Beacon Park Golf Club is situated between Beacon Lane to the east and Stannanought Road to the west. The site is in the Green Belt and is a recreation facility and a nature conservation site.

The application is seeking amendments to a previous planning permission.

Works started on the Beacon Park site following the initial grant of planning permission for remodelling of parts of the golf course and adjacent land, including the importation of significant amounts of inert material.

As well as works to form a nine-hole short course, stockpiling took place on the former driving range site. Work then stopped on site without the changes to the 18-hole course being finished.

The stockpiled area was then made a subject of a Breach of Condition Notice (BCN) because of local landscape and visual amenity impacts. The notice said the land had to be levelled in line with the terms of the 2016 presentation.

The proposals in this application are revisions to the consented scheme to seek to address the stockpile which was subject of the BCN.

Footgolf could be coming to Beacon Park Golf Centre.

Director of development and regeneration services at West Lancs Council, John Harrison, wrote in his planning report for the meeting that he was in favour of the application but added: "I am aware of concerns that the proposals may result in lengthy disruptions to course users with implications for competitive golf and handicaps.

"The proposed works will inevitably result in disruption during an interim halt to use of the first fairway, green and second tees to users as the works take place. The use of temporary tees and greens, and reconfiguration of some of the remaining holes will ensure that the Council of National Golf Unions standards will be met for course length and par thereby ensuring continuous eligibility to host competitions and maintain handicaps."

Mr Harrison reported that a "significant proportion of the works are relatively small amendments to the previously approved schemes."

And he continued: "The construction of the nine-hole footgolf course on the former driving range will provide a new facility aimed at introducing young and older users alike into a relatively new recreational activity whilst complimenting the existing facilities."

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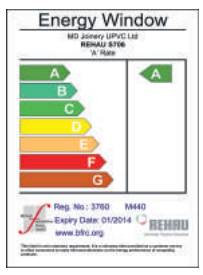

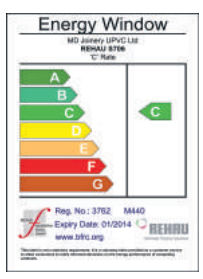

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Edge Hill launches new degree in health and social care sector management

EDGE Hill University has responded to calls from the health sector for better qualified and experienced managers by launching a new degree starting in 2019.

From September, students will be able to study on the new BSc (Hons) Health and Social Care Leadership and Management degree at the Ormskirk campus. The course offers management and leadership skills covering both health and social care sectors giving students the maximum choice in their future career.

The university says the course, which provides a variety of work-placed experience, is a response to calls from businesses and organisations, including Virgin Healthcare and the NHS, asking for more graduate leaders and managers.

Hayley McKenzie, lecturer in Applied Health and Social Care, who has led on the development of the new degree, said: "We spoke to stakeholders and they all said they were short of qualified leaders and managers. While organisations like to encourage progression for employees they told us that many managers lacked theoretical knowledge and the cross-sector experience needed to be an effective manager.

Holistic approach

"In the health/NHS sector there is a move towards a more holistic wellbeing approach combining both health and social care. This degree responds to that by teaching future leaders holistically. Students can choose where they want to focus their work experience - in a hospital, health retailer, gym or care home setting, for example. They would have to start at the bottom and experience a variety of roles so they know what the service is like for the customer/users, before actually practising their management skills in the third year.

"They then have to use their experience to decide on and carry out a 'small change project' suggesting what changes they would make if they were in charge."

Edge Hill is one of only a small number of universities offering the integrated degree rather than students studying a health and social care degree then taking further management and leadership training or vice versa.

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Stub it out! Residents are being encouraged to stop smoking with support from Lancashire Care Trust's Quit Squad.

Smokers urged to kick the habit with support from the Quit Squad

SMOKERS in the county are being urged to kick the habit this New Year - with a little help from Lancashire Care Trust's Quit Squad.

The latest appeal is being made to coincide with a new Public Health England (PHE) campaign highlighting the devastating harm that smoking can cause and how this can be avoided.

As part of the 'Health Harms' campaign, PHE has released a film that encourages smokers to make a quit attempt this January by demonstrating the personal and harm to health from every single cigarette.

It features smoking expert Dr Lion Shahab and Dr Rosemary Leonard carrying out an experiment to visually demonstrate the high levels of cancer-causing chemicals and tar inhaled by an average smoker over a month, compared to not smoking or using an e-cigarette.

And the Quit Squad is urging local smokers to contact the service for face-to-face advice and support, along with the most appropriate treatment from specialist advisors.

Residents in Lancashire thinking of quitting are urged to contact the Quit Squad to take the first steps towards a healthier, smoke-free life.

Gareth Beck from the Quit Squad said: "Smoking is a deadly dependency and one of the biggest causes of avoidable death. There are more than 150,000 smokers in Lancashire and we want to encourage as many of those as possible to stop smoking with our specialist support.

Options

"To access the service just pick up the phone and give us a call on freephone 0800 3286297. The service offers free one-to-one support, along with stop smoking medicines that are available free for those who qualify or at the cost of prescription.

"The Quit Squad offer sessions in a variety of settings where you can make an appointment or drop-in at your convenience, so there is an option to suit everyone. We really want every smoker in Lancashire to take advantage of the free Quit Squad support we offer - you are four times more likely to quit with our support.

"I know how difficult it is to stop but the important thing is to commit to trying again, no matter how many times you might have tried and failed in the past – it's never too late, to quit."

The Quit Squad is a service delivered by Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust and funded by Lancashire County Council.

People can access the service in their community by visiting a drop-in clinic (for which no appointments are required) or by attending a one-to-one session. The Quit Squad also offers sessions in the community and workplace.

For further details, telephone 0800 3286297, visit www.quitsquad.nhs.uk, or follow the Quit Squad on Twitter @LancashireCare #QuitSquad.

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Volunteers team up with council Rangers on orchard projects

Report by **Henry James**

West Lancs Council Park Ranger, Anne Faulkner with members of the Friends of Coronation Park.

VOLUNTEERS and youngsters from local schools and colleges joined West Lancashire Borough Council Rangers and the Friends of Tawd Valley Park to create a new orchard.

The trees have been planted after the creation of a new path from Manfield, Skelmersdale to the River Tawd.

The Rangers and the Friends organised for groups to go along and plant heritage varieties of fruit trees to turn what was a plain field into a community orchard.

A new hedge was planted around the outside to define the area and provide cover for wildlife, and bulbs were also put into the ground during the planting sessions which were rounded off with a weekend of activities for the local community.

Students taking part were from West Lancashire College's Opportunities and Supported Internship courses; Lathom High School; Our Lady Queen of Peace; Pontville School; and West Lancashire Community High School, working with the My Bright Futures project. Children from local primary schools also took part through the SHARES Lancashire scheme's Pupils Parliament.

The orchard and the path are part of the Tawd Valley Park Project to make Skelmersdale's green oasis an even more pleasant place to visit.

Meanwhile, in Ormskirk the Friends of Coronation Park donated and planted an apple tree at the community orchard in the park. This adds to the collection of 26 orchard trees already located there for the local community to benefit from their autumn fruit harvest.

The orchard is relatively young having been introduced to the park in 2013 and includes various apple species, Victoria plum, cherry, pear and damson trees.

In partnership with West Lancs Ranger Service, the Friends of Coronation Park are volunteers who aim to help make the award-winning park even better through projects, community conservation and assisting with events.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, West lancs Council's cabinet member for leisure, said: "I am really pleased to see so much great work being done in our local parks and thank all the students, teachers and volunteers who helped with the orchard creation. We are also grateful to the Friends groups for their hard work in the parks."

Anyone interested in joining the Friends of Coronation Park can contact Anne on (01695) 570258 or e-mail anne.faulkner@westlancs.gov.uk; or for the Friends of Tawd Valley Park call Paula on 01695 585144 or email tvp@westlancs.gov.uk.

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Fri 1 Feb	Robbie Williams	Freddie Mercury		
Fri 8 Feb	Frankie Valli	Cliff Richard		
Fri 15 Feb	Neil Diamond	Michael Buble		
Fri 22 Feb	Meatloaf	Cher		
Fri 1 Mar	Whitney Houston	Celine Dion	£89.95	£119.95
Fri 8 Mar	Tom Jones	Elvis		
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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Council is prepared to sacrifice our Green Belt for no good reason

IN reply to the letter by Councillor Gail Hodson (December 12) let's just get a few things straight.

With reference to the Conservative government's requirement for a five-year review to quote the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in question:

Paragraph 33: 'strategies should be reviewed to assess WHETHER they need updating . . . once every five years . . .will need updating if their applicable local housing need figure has changed significantly.'

As she will know, this is not the case. No unmet housing needs in West Lancashire or Merseyside have been identified. All met until 2041.

Paragraph 34: 'This should include setting out the levels and types of affordable housing provision required along with other infrastructure...'. The council is well aware that their proposals do not focus on affordable housing and that the grade one flexible Green Belt land identified for release is far too expensive to provide any form of affordable housing. It will simply line the pockets of wealthy landowners and large property developers.

Paragraph 72 and 102 deal with the issue of the necessary infrastructure, particularly, transport issues and the potential impacts of development on transport networks. The council's transport assessment identifies that stress levels are high, above 90% on roads that will be affected by the proposed developments.

Paragraph 109 states that development should be refused if impacts on the road networks would be severe. The proposals would dramatically increase congestion on our already overstretched transport system.

Chapter 13 deals with the Green Belt issue. The NPPF is very supportive of Green Belt land preservation.

Paragraph 136: 'Once established, Green Belt boundaries should only be altered where exceptional circumstances are fully evidenced and justified.'

Paragraph 137: '...policy-making authority should be able to demonstrate that it has examined fully all other reasonable options for meeting its identified need for development.'

Ample space

Skelmersdale has capacity for 40,000 more dwellings. Skelmersdale, Kirkby and Burscough (Ringtail park) have ample available space for any industrial development needs that may arise. Skelmersdale and Kirkby also have excellent transport infrastructure and motorway links.

Signs around Skelmersdale announce. 'This land is reserved for future development'. Others are saying 'grow your business here.'

There is no community infrastructure levy on new-builds in Skelmersdale and the land is much cheaper making affordable housing a realistic proposition.

We have the highest percentage of Green Belt land in the country because we have the best and most fertile agricultural land in the country.

The council is prepared to sacrifice this for no good reason.

The benefactors will be the already wealthy. Skelmersdale has been crying out for an upgrade for many years. Funding for this has been repeatedly ignored.

Shame on you - a Labour council willing to ignore the needs of the many to satisfy the greed of the wealthy.

P. Poole, local resident.

Glowing picture of 'new' Local Plan ignores serious infrastructure problems

COUNCILLOR Gail Hodson (Letters, December 12) paints a glowing picture of the possibilities offered through the 'new' Local Plan, but overlooks some of the existing serious difficulties that should be addressed immediately - certainly before any new residential or commercial development begins.

The current infrastructure creaks already and nowhere is that more prominent than in the road system.

Living in Newburgh, any journey I make requires me to travel along Cobbs Brow Lane, or the main A5209 from the M6 through Parbold and Newburgh and on towards Ormskirk and Burscough.

This latter can be little short of a nightmare. The traffic is almost continuous throughout much of the day and a high percentage is the enormous lorries that are taking over our major roads and some minor ones too.

The damage to the road surfaces is considerable, as must be the disruption of life for residents living along that road. Crossing the road to the village school, the church, the Post Office, or the pub is hazardous, and a major problem for the elderly and the infirm. It is only a matter of time before someone is killed or seriously injured.

Where is the new link road direct from the M6 to Burscough and Ormskirk, by-passing the small villages, that has been talked about for years? That should be the council's first and immediate priority. Without it any new development simply exacerbates an already serious problem.

Very Concerned Resident.

It's not too late to stop our borough being ruined

FIRSTLY I would like to thank the Champion for its coverage of the Local Plan Review Preferred Options Paper.

In addition to specific articles you have also included many letters addressing the concerns of residents.

It was telling that the only letters supporting the proposals were from Labour councillors, one of whom is actually the wife of the very councillor behind the plan.

It is clear that many people are worried about the significant problems that the proposals would bring, but I fear many more think that it won't affect them. Unfortunately they are mistaken.

If you currently find it difficult to access medical services, struggle to get your children into schools etc., or find traffic congestion and pollution unacceptable, imagine what it will be like with around a 30% increase in population, houses and vehicles.

The formal consultation period has closed but it is not too late to stop the plans progressing.

Contact your own councillors and let them know your views.

Hopefully all parties will pull together for the good of West Lancashire and stop our borough being ruined.

Dave, on behalf of the Aughton Residents Group.

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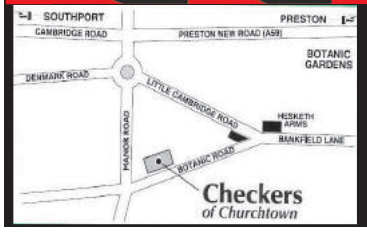

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Surely our MP should seek public's views on Brexit

OVER recent weeks we have noted Rosie Cooper's local newspaper coverage on local issues as well as national ones.

We have heard her views on the Local Plan, but to my knowledge we have never had any public meetings to ask our views on what we want represented with regards to Brexit.

We regularly hear on national media MPs across the country stating they have asked constituents what they want represented.

Why can't we have a series of public meetings across West Lancashire for views to be garnered?

Dare I even suggest a Freedom of Information request to be made to ask for data across all political parties as to how many constituents have been polled about their views on Brexit?

Is it beyond expectations to ask at such a key moment in history that at the very least an effort is made to ask what we want our MP to ask and how we want them to vote?

Keith Knaggs, by email.

Concern over sharing photos and videos of children is about more than privacy and politics

I READ with interest your article (December 12) regarding the law surrounding taking photos and video at school plays and nativities. However I feel the article fell short.

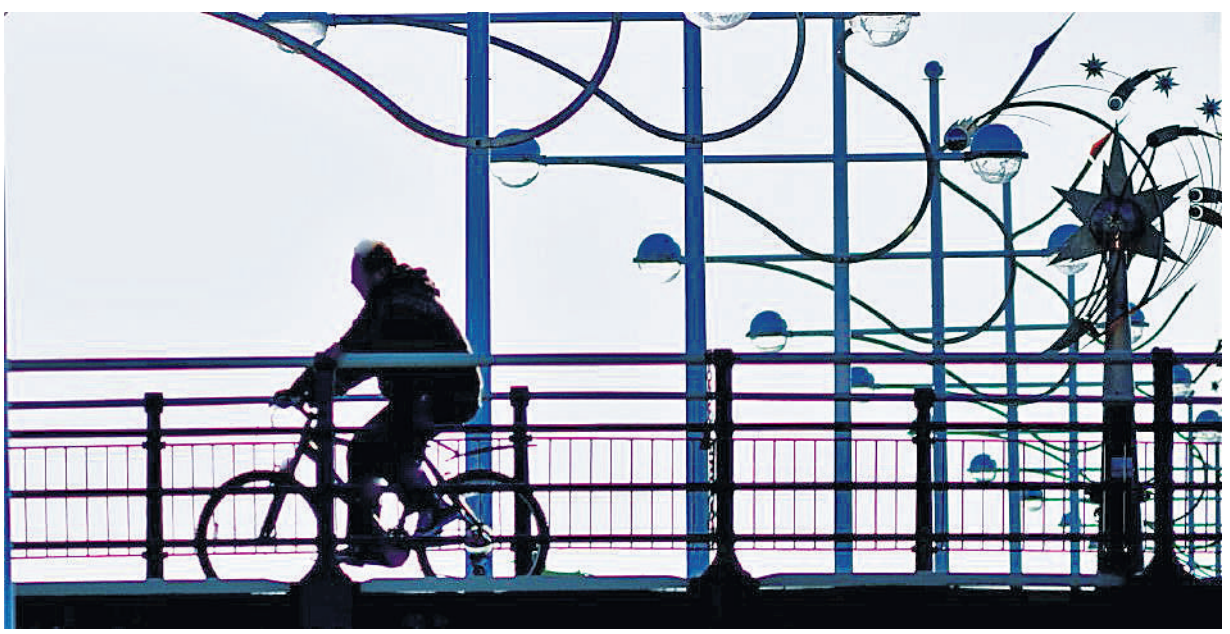
It seemed to suggest that preventing the sharing of photos and videos of children on social media is just a school politics and privacy issue. This is not the case, for some it is a safeguarding issue, and therefore a lot more serious.

For some children, posting a picture of them which indicates their location can put them at risk of harm. Children in foster care, those who have been adopted, or those fleeing domestic violence, can be put in danger if their location is shared.

In order to prevent this it is important that if anyone does have pictures of other people's children they should keep them to themselves and not share it online, or as suggested at the end of the piece, if you must share pictures of your child, please blur out the faces of other children.

D. S., Skelmersdale, details supplied.

PIC of the week



The New Year is a perfect time to take a brisk and bracing bicycle ride on Southport Pier and work off the excess pounds put on over the festive period. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Thanks, folks!

I WOULD like, through the Champion, to thank the lady and gentleman who came to my aid in Ormskirk on the worst day imaginable, when the wheel fell off my electric chair.

They where very kind and my friend and I wish to let them know we got home okay.

Thanks again, it restores your faith in mankind.

J. Dean, Skelmersdale.

Drop us a line...

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest why not drop us a line? Letters to the editor can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page, should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and include the sender's name, address and contact details.

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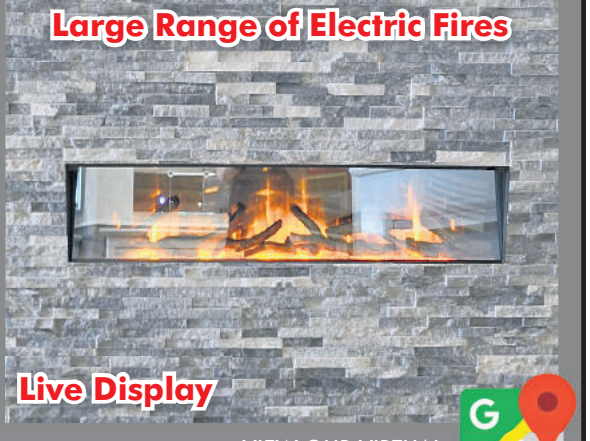

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Exhibition will show works of local artist for first time

Report by **Kenny Parker**

ART lovers will be able to purchase previously unseen paintings by late local artist Tom Lally when they are displayed for the first time at a specially organised exhibition at Ormskirk Civic Hall (The Civic) on Saturday, January 12.

Tom, a former art teacher at Southport's Meols Cop High School who lived in Shirdley Hill, was also an author specialising in ghost stories and copies of his books will also be available for people to take away and enjoy for free.

Using local landmarks and folklore as the basis of many of his oil paintings and stories, he dedicated his time to promoting local art and history within the community until his death in 2008, aged 70.

For many years the art collection has been stored in a garage at the family home.

Now, though , with the help of local history group, Ormskirk Bygone Times, the paintings have been delicately cleaned and restored wherever possible to their original condition.

Fantastic

Chris Bentley, founder of Ormskirk Bygone Times which is hosting the exhibition, said the event is free but donations would be welcome to help cover the cost of the hire of the venue.

And he believes local art lovers will appreciate the quality of Tom's work.

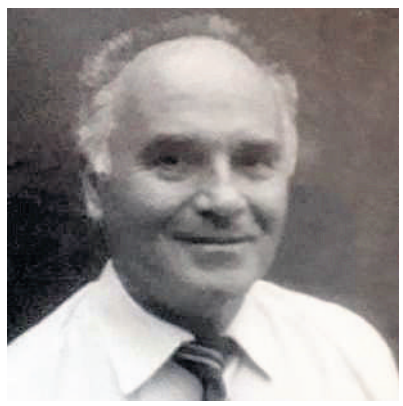
He said: "When I found the paintings hidden away at the back of the garage I was blown away by the quality - they are absolutely fantastic.

"Over his lifetime Tom created many oil paintings and at exhibitions prior to his death he sold quite a few of them.

"The books are fantastic as well. Obviously an awful lot of research, time and effort has gone into writing them."

And Chris says that, although based on folklore, many of the stories have relevance to local buildings and areas that exist today. "For instance, we have an area in Ormskirk known as Devil's Wall where people walk their dogs and one of Tom's stories tells how it got its name."

On the day of the exhibition there will also be a variety of displays by Ormskirk Bygone Times and Lathom Park Trust.



Artist, author and teacher, Tom Lally.

One of the paintings by the late Tom Lally which will be on display at the Ormskirk Civic Hall on Saturday January 12.

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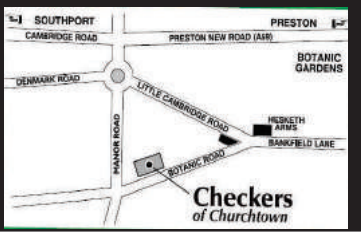

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Deadline looming for online school place applications

PARENTS in Lancashire are being reminded that the closing date for online applications for primary school places for children starting in 2019 is next Tuesday, January 15.

Last year more than 95% of parents submitted their applications via Lancashire County Council's website - the quickest and easiest way to apply.

County council staff say parents need to submit an application form for all children starting school, even if the child already has an older brother or sister at their preferred school.

For more information go to www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools or call on 0300 123 6707.

MP says end could be in sight for footpath scaffolding obstruction

ROSIE Cooper says she has finally secured a timetable for works to remove scaffolding on the footpath on Bridge Street in Ormskirk town centre and the rebuilding of the perimeter wall of the Bridge House development.

The scaffolding has been an eyesore and obstruction for local residents for three years with pedestrians unable to use the footpath.

West Lancs MP, Ms Cooper says she has investigated the matter on behalf of residents contacting both borough and county councils, as well as TAS Scaffolding, estates agents Sutton Kersh Ltd. and Countrywide Estate Management.

Sutton Kersh had been the managing agent on behalf of Bridge House Residents Association but this has now moved to Countrywide Estate Management following their acquisition of the former.

Ms Cooper says Lancashire County Council refused to serve an enforcement notice for the removal of the scaffolding for fear of becoming involved in the long-standing legal dispute between the developer and the residents' association.

However, Countrywide has now confirmed that they are in a position to move forward having previously been unable to progress the case due to the background investigation.

Rosie Cooper has welcomed the commitment. She said: "Residents have long had to be subjected to this unsightly and obtrusive scaffolding along Bridge Street but it seems there is finally an end in sight, although it could still be some months before the work is carried out.

Rosie Cooper at the site of the scaffolding.

"The management company Countrywide Estate Management have confirmed to me that they will be consulting with their clients (Bridge House residents) and following a Section 20 consultation will carry out the major works. This can take up to a minimum of 60 days, due to the notices being served and any observations made.

"They are currently liaising with their client and hope to receive instructions soon.

"Due to the legalities and safety of the general public, it is foreseen the scaffold remaining in place until all work has been completed and signed off.

"The structural engineer report I have seen explains that the retaining wall was poorly designed and constructed originally and an outward lean has developed, necessitating the erection of the scaffolding.

"I will continue to monitor the situation and push for this to be fully resolved."

A Section 20 consultation with residents is a three-step process that landlords/managing agents must undertake when proposing to carry out major works.

Countrywide Estate Management has been contacted for comment.

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Famous poet's romantic retreat is well *worth* a visit!

Champion Travel Review

NESTLED just 800 yards from the heart of Grasmere is the eye-catching Lancrigg Hotel, a bright yellow 10-bedroom hotel set in 30 acres of gardens and woodlands and boasting a fascinating history.

Famous 19th-century Romantic poet William Wordsworth was so captivated by the Grade II listed building that he bought it as a summer retreat for his friend and asked her to paint it yellow, while his sister Dorothy described its terraced walk as their 'favourite haunt'.

Wordsworth must have had a thing for yellow, considering probably his most famous poem was all about the daffodils in the Lakes!

Lancrigg is now a family-run hotel headed up by Ian, who took it over last year. His aim is for a relaxed, informal, 'country-house' feel where he hopes visitors, straying slightly off the beaten track, will stay a few nights to try out the restaurant, countryside walks and nearby villages.

We stayed in the split-floor Wordsworth Suite, which boasted a stunning cranberry coloured four-poster bedroom, second bedroom and family-sized bathroom complete with a whirlpool bath!

The dining room had spectacular views of the surrounding gardens and Grasmere fells and the food was as delightful as our surroundings.

The smoked salmon fishcakes with salsa-style sauce and salad garnish and the rich, spicy, green chilli and prawn risotto went down a treat, as did chef's deep-fried banana bread dessert with ice cream.

We were up early next morning for a generous Lakes fry-up before heading off to enjoy the stunning, largely uncrowded Easdale Tarn walk which takes just over an hour to complete, starting a few steps from the hotel, and weaves up a cobbled path running alongside a waterfall, around the tarn and back down the other side.

We even managed to fit in a spot of shopping in Ambleside on the way home. Extend your break and you could probably squeeze in Helm Crag as well! For more information on Lancrigg Hotel, call 015394 35317.

Danielle Thompson

The Lancrigg Hotel, Grasmere.

Northern Rail boss admits failings but says company IS fit to run the franchise!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

David Brown, managing director of Northern Rail.

THE boss of rail company Northern - labelled 'Northern Fail' by disgruntled passengers - has admitted that its Ormksirk to Preston service has been unacceptable but maintains that the company is "absolutely" fit to continue as the franchisee.

Research by the Ormskirk Preston Southport Passenger Association (OPSTA) revealed that between May and November of last year, one third of trains were cancelled on the line.

Chaos following the introduction of a new timetable in May, allied to ongoing disruption as a result of the prolonged dispute between Northern and the RMT union over the future role of guards, was compounded in November when services were cancelled for an entire week which the rail company said was due to trains being damaged by leaves on the line.

The service is scheduled to run hourly from 7am to 11pm on weekdays calling at Burscough Junction, Rufford and Croston.

Raising the matter at Prime Minister's Questions following the November cancellations West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper said that people were being left stranded on platforms while others were losing jobs due to being late for work and parents were not seeing their children because of the additional commute times.

Misery

There were also reports of students missing end-of-year exams as a result.

Ms Cooper said: "I have been deluged with reports from residents about poor service, no service and no refunds for much of 2018.

"I don't believe that many politicians, including the Transport Secretary and the Prime Minister, realise how bad the situation is here in the North.

"Northern have a Government rail franchise and are simply not delivering and instead are causing misery for commuters and their families through their deplorable service."

In response, Theresa May said that the Government was a carrying out a report into the service.

OPSTA had written to Ms Cooper calling for Northern to be referred to the Transport Select Committee following the week-long shutdown, accusing the company of 'acting as if autumn had never happened before'!

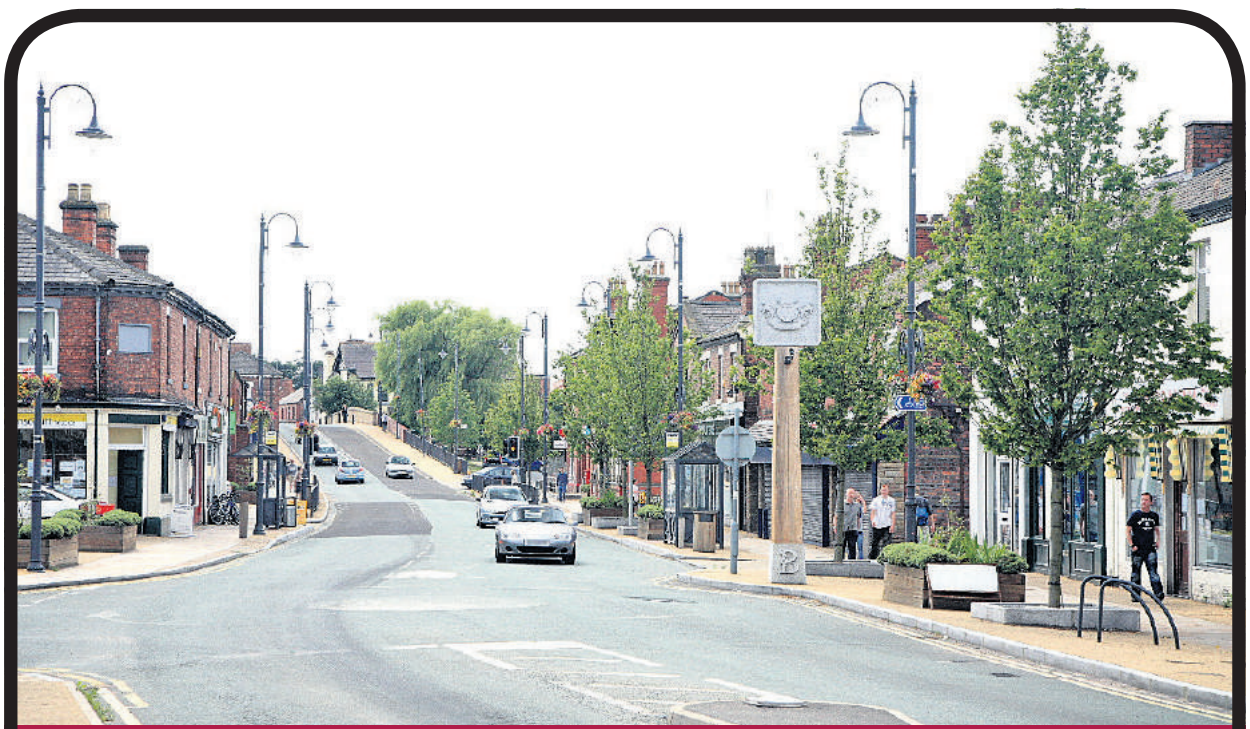
Northern said that cancelled trains were replaced by bus services and says it has invested £600m in 98 new trains for the network and the refurbishment of the remaining 243 trains in the fleet. It has also pledged to phase out all the ageing and unpopular Pacer units by 2020.

Managing director, David Brown, said: "I know that the service that we offered in parts of 2018 has been just not acceptable. Myself and the team are fully committed to getting that right and are seeing that incremental improvement.

"We are starting to see the investment that we're making in refurbished trains and hopefully in 2019 we're seeing the new trains and further refurbishment come through.

"It hasn't been good enough and we have apologised to customers."

Asked if the company was fit to run the franchise, he replied: "Northern are absolutely fit and I'm absolutely committed to delivering the franchise and the commitments that we've got."



WEST LANCASHIRE

BURSCOUGH PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Have your say on a new plan for Burscough

The Burscough Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Burscough Parish Council in consultation with the local community and has now been passed to West Lancashire Borough Council to take forward for examination in line with national legislation.

The Neighbourhood Plan contains a vision, objectives and planning policies for the Burscough parish area, covering a time period to 2027. Once completed, it will be used in the determination of planning applications in the Burscough parish area alongside the West Lancashire Local Plan and other local and national policies.

Public consultation is taking place on the Submission Version Burscough Parish Neighbourhood Plan between

Wednesday 9th January and Wednesday 20th February 2019.

During this time any interested parties can make comments on the plan and accompanying documents either online, by email or by using paper forms.

To give us your comments and to find out more information, contact us using the details below:

Visit: **www.westlancs.gov.uk/np**
or go to the following locations during normal opening times to view paper copies of the Neighbourhood Plan:
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the Grove Community Centre, Station Approach, Burscough;
and West Lancashire Borough Council offices, 52, Derby Street, Ormskirk.
Email: **localplan@westlancs.gov.uk**
Phone: **01695 585194 or 585393**

MotorFest half-price 'early bird' offer

CAR and motorbike enthusiasts thinking of entering their vintage, classic or competition vehicle for the 2019 Ormskirk MotorFest can take advantage of an 'early bird' offer.

Firmly established as one of the biggest free family events in the North West, this year's MotoFest is scheduled for Sunday, August 25 when huge crowds are once again expected.

Now the first 50 owners who enter their vehicles in the event can put their pride and joy in the parade laps for just £5 - half the normal price.

It is still free to enter vehicles for one of the static displays on Coronation Park but vehicles that are put on display on Aughton Street and Moor Street will take part in the parade laps.

Mike Ashcroft, chairman of Aintree Circuit Club, which organises the event with support from West Lancs Council, said: "Entries for 2019 are now open on the website at www.ormskirkmotorfest.com and the first 50 owners who want to put their vehicle on one of the parade laps can take advantage of our great early bird offer."

Details of how to register as a marshal for the 2019 Ormskirk MotorFest are also available on the website. Marshals will be paid a 'flat rate' for expenses and receive refreshments.

County is top of the class for free early education

RESEARCH released by the Department for Education shows that Lancashire is among the best places in the country for free early education with more than 80% of county council nurseries rated as outstanding by schools regulator Ofsted, compared with 62% nationally.

Figures released by DfE also show that more two, three, and four-year-old children in Lancashire benefit from free early education than in other parts of the country.

Statistics show that 95% of three and four-year-old children benefit from good or outstanding education provision, as rated by Oftsed, from Lancashire's private, voluntary and independent providers and maintained nursery schools. Nationally the figure is 93%.

In addition, 98% of two-year-old children benefit from good or outstanding provision in private, voluntary and independent settings and maintained schools in Lancashire. Nationally, the figure is 95%.

The DfE results also show that 97% of provision in private, voluntary and independent nursery settings in Lancashire is rated good or outstanding, just above national and North West figures.

In addition, 100% of Lancashire's maintained nursery schools are rated good or better, compared with 98% nationally, while 83% are rated outstanding, compared with 62% nationally.

County Councillor Susie Charles.

The figures also show that more under-fives benefit from free education in Lancashire. 99% of three and four-year-olds receive free early education places compared to the latest national average of 94%; while 75% of two-year-olds take up a funded place, compared to 72% nationally.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire's cabinet member for Children, Young People and Schools, said: "I'd like to recognise the achievements of all our providers of free early education in Lancashire. Their hard work and dedication has raised the quality of our provision to a new high, reflected in the large numbers of families taking it up.

"To outstrip both the national and North West average in terms of quality and take-up is a remarkable achievement."

JANUARY 2019

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- ST THOMAS THE MARTYR C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL, HIGHGATE ROAD, UPHOLLAND. 2-3PM

WEDNESDAYS
- PARBOLD W.I., STATION ROAD, PARBOLD. 9.15-10.15AM
  NEW TAI CHI CLASS: 10.30-11.30AM (FREE OF CHARGE FOR FIRST 10 WEEKS)
- ECUMENICAL CENTRE, NORTHWAY, SKELMERSDALE. 11.30AM-12.30PM

THURSDAY
- CHRIST CHURCH MINISTRY CENTRE, LONG LANE, ORMSKIRK. 11AM-12PM

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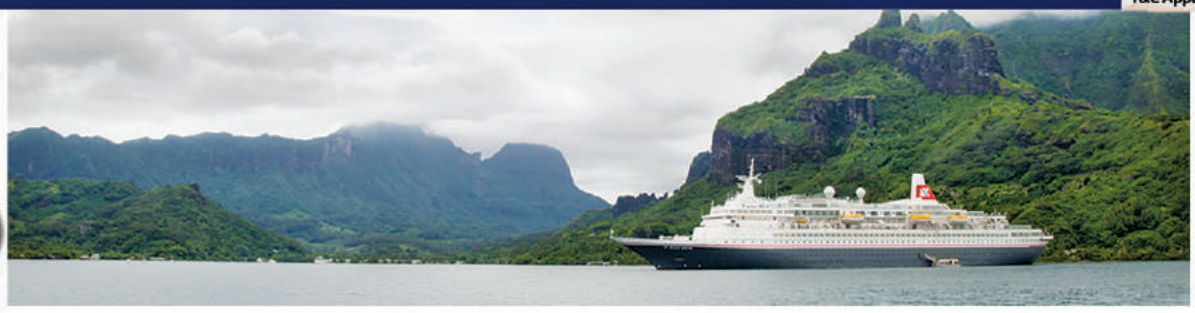

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Budding writers showcase work of influential women of West Lancashire

A GROUP of students from Edge Hill University have showcased how influential West Lancashire women have helped shape the lives of women today through the use of short fiction.

The Tales From Her Past: Short Story Launch, event held at the Chapel Gallery in Ormskirk, allowed six creative writing students to launch their short works of fiction inspired by women from West Lancashire who took an active role during the First World War.

Using an archive of research and historical materials from Ormskirk Heritage, students reinterpreted the lives of these extraordinary women who lived in or around the town 100 years ago and looked at the impact their lives have on the way we live today.

Dr Rodge Glass, reader in creative writing, edited Tales From Her Past which features all six short stories.

Third-year Creative Writing and English Literature student, Georgia Jepson focused on Ellen Preece, a munitions worker who was killed in an accident at the factory she worked at in Aintree at only 23, and turned her story into contemporary fiction.

Recognised

Fellow third-year Creative Writing student, Kaden James, also found the experience invaluable. The inspiration for his story was Muriel Gladys Hutton, a woman from Ormskirk who served as a nurse during the First World War and helped the wounded throughout many campaigns across the globe. Her efforts were recognised when she was one of two people awarded the British Red Cross First Class in 1918.

The other students involved in the project are third-year Creative Writing student Paul Shacksmyth and MA Creative Writing students Jennifer Murphy, Julia Clayton and Harry Draper.

The exhibition about the lives of these women and others will run at the Chapel Gallery throughout January before going on tour.

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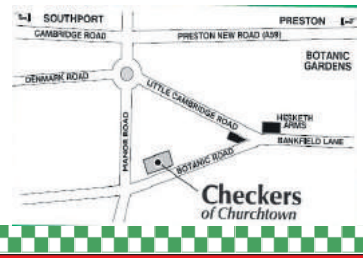

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Hub group is offering free computer and online help sessions again

BURSCOUGH Hub Group has announced that its free sessions to help people with computer and online skills have started again - thanks to funding from the West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group.

And the group is also keen to stress that it can provide help for those who have no access to a computer at home but need to access the Internet for online services.

The popular sessions are held every Wednesday between 10am and noon at the Methodist Church in Orrell Lane, Burscough.

Since starting up last year the group says it has supported many people to acquire computer skills or tackle specific tasks, such as storing photos or searching online.

Difficulties

While the group will continue to cater for those needing to improve their computer skills, it also stresses it can help those who don't have a computer of their own.

Chairwoman of the group, Burscough West borough Councillor Cynthia Dereli, said: "As society changes and there is greater pressure from our public services to engage with them online, there is concern that for some people this will present them with major difficulties if they don't have access to a computer.

"Computers are provided, as well as support to use them, for anyone needing to get online to deal with issues such as contacting public services.

"So if someone says to you 'contact us online' - don't panic, just come along any Wednesday to the Methodist Church in Burscough and get it sorted in friendly surroundings with a cup of tea on hand!"

For more information ring 01704 895247.

Harry's 'love letter' to Doctor Who scoops prestigious prize

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A DOCTOR Who fan from Ormskirk has won a prestigious competition for new writers and has already heard his winning story - which he describes as his 'love letter to the Doctor' - brought to life.

Inspired by his passion for the iconic TV show, Harry Draper, who is studying for an MA in creative writing at Edge Hill University, wrote a new adventure about the time-travelling hero which has been turned into an audio download by production company and publisher Big Finish after winning their Paul Spragg Memorial Short Trips Opportunity.

Big Finish produces a wide range of audio drama but specialises in plays derived from the various Doctor Who series.

Harry's winning story features Constable Bernard Whittam, celebrating his retirement from the police, whose evening takes an unexpected turn when he finds himself facing the end of the world in a tale of damnation and salvation.

Doctor Who fan Harry Draper who has scooped a prestigious writing competition prize.

The 22-year-old said: "This is my definitive love letter to the Doctor. I wanted to write a sequel to the very first episode aired in the 1960s and it only seemed fitting to feature my favourite doctor, Patrick Troughton, and be set in Barnes Common, London."

Harry, who gained a first in his BA in Creative Writing at Edge Hill, has entered the annual competition since it began in 2016 in memory of production assistant Paul Spragg.

He said: "I remember the exact day that I first came across Doctor Who and I've never looked back since. It was July 8, 2006 with David Tennant. It had all the classic components, Time Lords and Daleks and it had such a huge cultural impact at the time.

"I then went on to watch all the episodes and I'm a huge fan - although Patrick Troughton, William Hartnell and Matt Smith are my favourite Doctors."

He added: "Paul Spragg was always very keen to make sure fans felt part of the Doctor Who culture so I'm honoured and surprised to have won this fantastic competition."

After submitting a one-page synopsis and opening page, he was chosen from hundreds of applicants and worked with the production team on three edits to create the finished story. The play has been made available for free for Big Finish listeners.

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My resolution for 2019? Not to muck about with electricity!

OH my prophetic soul...

Last week I explained that a calamity with my household electric supply had left me largely without lighting on Christmas Day and that I had no intention of attempting to rectify matters until after New Year because if I was wrong about the original cause of the disaster I would again blow the main fuse (replaced by a kindly electricity supply man on Christmas afternoon) and once more lose my ability to cook or recharge gizmos such as my laptop.

So, on January 2 I summoned up my courage and replaced the original faulty fuse - and am now without electricity at all!

Obviously I will have to invest in quite a bit of rewiring but first, will have to go cap in hand to my electricity supplier once again to put in a new main fuse.

To complete my present misery I have a cold and a distinct lack of large hankies. Still, things could be worse. I do possess two camping gas stoves (and a supply of gas bottles) so hot food can still be available, and, importantly my 'Twirly' bus pass so I can get about to increase my hanky stock and buy food suitable for stove-top preparation.

As I said, things could be worse, though from where I'm sitting, probably not a whole lot worse. I'm seriously considering changing by first name from Jim to Job, for it seems to me that the Almighty has decided that I need sorely to be tried.

Anyway, back to business.

Yesterday I took a bus to Ormskirk. The vehicle arrived on time but plastered all over the side was an invitation to 'Give the Bus a Chance' - a sentiment I personally go along with.

A good idea, until you climb aboard and take a seat. Then you realise that the advertising vinyls on the outside, also cover most of the windows as well, so trying to look outwards is very much like straining the view through the pixels making up newsprint - if you see what I mean - which is more than I could see through the murk!

Personally I've never been sure about external advertising on buses anyway. After all, I assume that whoever designed the livery at least gave some thought to the overall effect, which is hardly likely to be improved by advertising messages plastered over it.

In any case, being the reactionary old buffer that I am, I really cannot believe that the trend to bedaub one's buses with swoops and zigzags of various colours, designed for the bus company at considerable expense, is any improvement whatsoever on the generally tasteful liveries previously employed by the bus companies of yore.

I've said this before, relating to other things (such as the Mersey Ferries) but I reckon simple, straightforward colour schemes are both more dignified and far more likely to fit in with the actual design of the vehicle being painted.

Up and down the country, various of the new bus groups (such as Stagecoach, and Arriva) have been celebrating various anniversaries of the foundation of their constituent companies by painting a bus or two in the 'old' livery. Do managers look at the result? And assuming they do, how many, hand on heart, would agree with me that they look far smarter, than their present creations?

Believe it or not, but back in 'the old days' when just about all of the Champion's circulation area was served by one bus company, Ribble Motor Services, with cities and larger towns also running their own bus services, local folk actually took pride in 'their' local buses and this pride extended to the men and women who ran them as well.

Oh yes, New Year's resolutions. I have resolved never, ever again to muck about with electricity which I do not understand. I've discovered what all the fuse was about!

Care home volunteer shortlisted for award at charity's 'Oscars'

A LONG-serving helper at a West Lancs care home has been recognised by being shortlisted for a national charity's 'Volunteer Oscars'!

Elsie Joan Hayes - Joan to family and friends - has supported Aughton Park Care Home on a daily basis for more than 14 years in a wide range of capacities, including keeping residents company and escorting them if they need to pop out, as well as supporting the wider care team with ad hoc admin tasks and monthly archiving.

The 76-year-old, who also runs the weekly knitting club at the home in Aughton Park Drive run by Methodist Homes for the Aged, was shortlisted in the Volunteer of the Year category of the charity's MHA Oscars.

And although she didn't take the top award she's still a winner in the eyes of everyone at the home.

Louise Culshaw, administrator at Aughton Park who nominated Joan for the award, said: "Joan has given 14 years of her life to supporting Aughton Park and we wanted to show her just how much she means to us. She is always available whenever she is called upon morning, noon or night and wants not only the best for the residents but for the staff to be the best they can be too."

Elsie Joan Hayes recognised for her long-standing support of Aughton Park Care Home.

Red letter day for Blue Badge 'trainer' David

A RETIRED civil servant from Ormskirk has been recognised at a charity's celebration of staff and volunteers.

David Ashton was presented with a Volunteer Award by Age UK Lancashire at a ceremony at Chorley Town Hall.

The 64-year-old was given the honour for his "excellent contribution" at the charity's Wellbeing Centre on Moorgate in Ormskirk town centre.

David, a senior civil servant with the Health and Safety Executive before retiring in 2015, volunteers at the centre every week helping people with online Blue Badge disabled motorist applications, as well as training fellow volunteers elsewhere in the county to provide the service.

He said: "I am amazed at how vitally important the Blue Badge is to many older people and how difficult it is for them to apply. To be able to help them is an absolute privilege."

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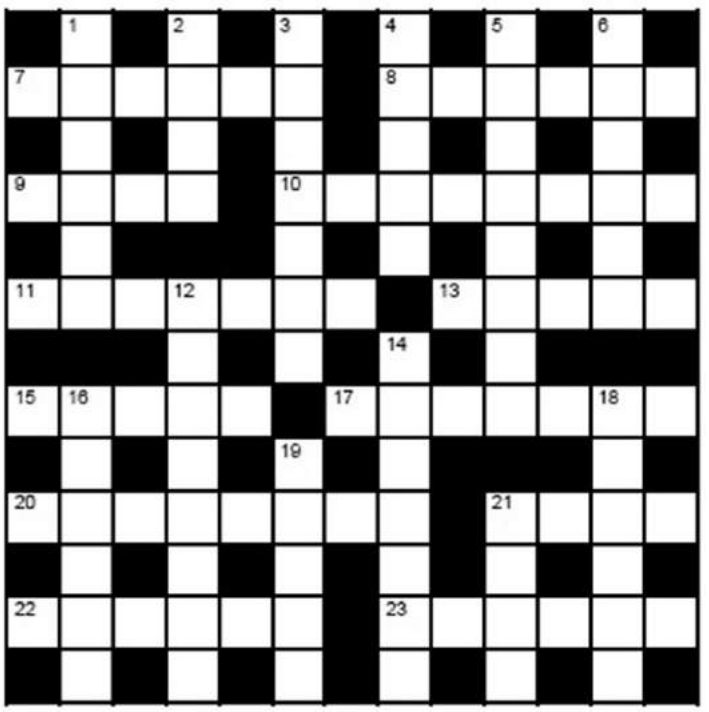

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Across: 7. Social climber. 8. Geranium. 9. Rite. 10. Inverse. 12. Nylon. 14. Snail. 16. Fighter. 19. Herb. 20. Eugenics. 22. Esprit de corps.

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ACROSS

7. Highly flammable sticky jelly used in incendiary bombs and flame-throwers (6)
8. An involuntary quivering movement (6)
9. In a short time (4)
10. Able to be used or treated by surgery (8)
11. Past or present pupil of a famous public school in Windsor (7)
13. A change of plan, especially a reversal of political policy (1-4)
15. Contented, cheerful (5)
17. Achieve a desired aim or result (7)
20. Situated outside a central area (8)
21. Remove (a substance) from the surface of a liquid (4)
22. Too much or too many to be counted or measured (6)
23. Get, acquire, or secure something (6)

DOWN

1. Skip, jump or prance around excitedly (6)
2. Unpleasant physical sensation caused by injury or illness (4)
3. Dishonourable, depraved (7)
4. Precipitous, sheer (5)
5. Excessively concerned with minor details or rules (8)
6. Informal term meaning to give a loud shout (6)
12. Forename of French military leader and emperor who was exiled to St Helena (8)
14. Small freshwater fish of the carp family (7)
16. Former pupils or students of a particular school, college, or university (6)
18. A magical or medicinal potion (6)
19. An accent placed over the letter n in Spanish (5)
21. An area of ground on which a town, building, or monument is constructed (4)

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Wool Boat couple supply knit kit order for environment group

THE owners of Burscough's floating wool shop landed a trans-Pennine deal to supply special knitting kits for an initiative which aims to encourage motorists to 'do their bit' for the environment.

Colin and Carole Wareing, who run the Wool Boat from their narrowboat on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, were asked to provide 200 knitting kits to the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTE) as part of its Car-Free Friday scheme which asks drivers to swap their cars for one day a week for public transport, walking or cycling.

The kits, comprising wool, needles and a design for a hat, were handed out to members of the public at bus interchanges.

The pattern for the hat was designed by Carole, while Colin in his role as stock controller was tasked with supplying the 200 balls of yarn and sets of knitting needles.

Colin said: "Supplying the yarn wasn't a problem, that came from our regular suppliers, but the needles were more of a tall order - we normally only sell about a dozen pairs of that size in a year!"

Call to end scourge of missed appointments

Report by **Henry James**

HEALTH chiefs are reminding patients to ring and cancel doctor's surgery appointments if they can't attend.

More than 15 million general practice appointments in England are being wasted each year because patients do not turn up and fail to warn surgeries.

Of around 307 million sessions scheduled with GPs, nurses, therapists and other practice staff every year, one in 20 are missed without sufficient notice to invite other patients.

That works out as around 15.4m missed slots. Of these, around 7.2m are with busy family doctors, which adds up to more than 1.2m GP hours wasted each year - the equivalent of more than 600 GPs working full time for a year.

Dr Kieran Murphy.

Each appointment is estimated to cost an average of £30, putting the total cost to the NHS at more than £216m, on top of the disruption for staff and fellow patients. That would pay for the annual salary of 2,325 full-time GPs; 224,640 cataract operations; 58,320 hip replacements; 216,000 drug treatment courses for Alzheimer's; and the annual salary of 8,424 full-time community nurses!

NHS England is aiming to increase access to GPs and other health professionals by recruiting thousands of new practice staff. However, patients can do their bit by making a New Year's resolution to let the NHS know if they cannot attend an appointment.

Medical director for Lancashire, Dr Kieran Murphy, said: "Ensuring there are appointments for those who need to see a doctor is our priority, if you have booked an appointment at your doctor's and you no longer need it please remember to call and cancel the appointment, help us to help others this winter."

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Jan Mcmurrie a mum of two from Aintree joined the Friday Slimming World Group based in Cheshire lines Maghull in February 2017 not really knowing what too expect. 'I thought that walking into the group was going to be embarrassing and scary...but it wasn't. I was soon made to feel at home and I was very warmly welcomed into the group' said Jan who is now a Target member of the group after losing 7st 8lb following the Extra Easy Food Optimising Plan.

'Being a working and busy mum I needed something that was easy to follow and that the rest of the family could enjoy too. Even within the first week of joining we were all eating very tasty and filling meals... KFC style chicken is a firm family favourite!'

12 months after joining - Jan met and made friends instantly with Gill Fletcher who joined the group in January 2018. The two ladies very quickly got to know each other and offered each other, and others in the group, support and inspiration to keep going on their weight loss journeys, especially when the going got tough. 'It's on those tough and difficult weeks, when you feel like giving up, that you need the most support' said Gill 'Jan was there each week with words of support to keep me going - when she had a tough week I always returned the favour'!

The two ladies shared help and ideas within the group every week and as well as motivating each other they helped and inspired the group too.

Gill has now lost a fabulous 5st 6 1/2 lb and the two ladies even achieved their amazing weight loss targets on the very same day!

'To see what Jan and Gill have achieved through the support they have given to each other is just lovely. They have lost just on 13 stone between them... its mindblowing and such an inspiration to the rest of the group. To see the two ladies achieve their Targets on the very same day was a very proud moment for me. I just love what our members can achieve when they support each other and both Jan and Gill can now look forward to a happier, healthier and more active life'

Both Jan and Gill both agree that walking through those doors on a Friday morning is still they best thing that they do all week... 'Its where the magic happens!'

Cheshire Lines in Sefton Lane, Maghull is Merseysides only Slimming World hub and the 5 Consultants working together there offer 13 sessions a week and are waiting to welcome you... if you'd like to know more then call Sue On 07957 531346 or check out the website www.slimmingworld.co.uk for more details and special offers.

Kevin's seventh heaven after shooting second hole-in-one

KEEN golfer Kevin Spencer is celebrating after scoring his second hole-in-one!

The 60-year-old from Burscough landed his latest ace at the 7th hole at Hurlston Hall Golf Club while taking part in a Stableford competition.

With the wind behind him, 12 handicapper Kevin punched a seven-iron into the green then, along with playing partners Leigh McEvoy and Steve Marr, watched as his ball ran up to the pin and disappeared into the hole.

He had previously scored a hole-in-one on the 16th at the Scarisbrick course when playing in the North West Seniors Presidents Day a few years ago.

In keeping with tradition Kevin had to buy the drinks in the clubhouse - but fortunately the club has a special card that pays the first £100 of a member's bar bill following an ace!

Right: Lucky seventh! Kevin pictured at the 7th hole at Hurlston Hall Golf Club.

Man charged with having imitation gun at rail station

A MAN has been charged with possessing an imitation firearm at a railway station in West Lancashire.

Connor McVey, 22, of Cawthorne Avenue, Kirkby, appeared - via video link from HMP Preston - at Sefton Magistrates Court on Wednesday, January 2.

The charge read that on August 21, 2018 he had "without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, in a public place, namely Town Green Station, Aughton, an imitation firearm, namely an airsoft gun, contrary to section 19 of and schedule 6to the Firearms Act 1968."

McVey was also charged with possession of cannabis and entered plea to both charges.

He was remanded in custody to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on January 30.

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Paula: 07484 263698

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
9am & 11am
Sue: 07817 444580

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sue: 07817 444580

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
6.30pm
Michelle: 07931 125172

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco),
Aintree Lane
9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco),
Aintree Lane
5pm & 7pm
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane
5pm & 7pm
Paula: 07484 263698

TUESDAY
CHESHIRE LINES
Sefton Lane (behind Fun Factor)
5pm & 7pm
Sheila: 07827 335824

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club,
Green Lane
5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266
TUESDAYS FROM 8TH JANUARY

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane
9am & 11am
Paula: 07484 263698

WEDNESDAY
MELLING
Melling Residents Community Association
(Ratepayers Club) Melling
5pm & 7pm
Katie: 07469 193445

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
9.30am
Sheila: 07827 335824

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club,
Green Lane
9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
4.30 & 6.30pm
Emma: 07414 223 617

UP HOLLAND
UpHolland Methodist Church,
Alma Hill
9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

UP HOLLAND
UpHolland Methodist Church,
Alma Hill
3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

BURSCOUGH
Burscough Cricket Club
School Lane
3.30pm, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Kathy: 07815 199346

THURSDAY
AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane
8.00am & 10.00am
Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut
(behind Christ Church), Long Ln
5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
3.00pm 5:00pm & 7.00pm
Sue: 07957 531346

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre,
Birleywood
9.30am, 11.30am
Sarah: 07792 146342

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre,
Birleywood
4.30pm & 6.30pm
Sarah: 07792 146342

FRIDAY
ORMSKIRK
New Pavilion
Ormskirk Cricket Club, Altys Lane
9am
Zoe: 01695 580966

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
9:30am & 11:30am
Sue: 07957 531346

SATURDAY
KIRKBY
St. Martins Church
Peatwood Avenue
7.30am & 9.30am
Emma: 07414 223617

OLD SKELMERSDALE
Greenhill Community Room
Beech Close
(Off Lancaster Cres)
8am & 10am
Sarah: 07969 395302

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
7.30am & 9.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
St Anne's School, Aughton Street
8.30am, 10.30am & 12.30pm
Sue: 07817 444580

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines
Sefton Lane (behind Fun Factor)
8.30am & 10.30am
Gill: 07921 222405

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Libraries join in wellbeing initiative

LIBRARIES in the county are taking part in the #Lancashire-Listens initiative during January aimed at highlighting reading as a way of lifting people's spirits and promoting health and wellbeing.

A selection of mood-lifting books will also be available through an interactive app, BorrowBox, allowing library members to download e-books and audio books straight to smartphones, iPads, tablets, laptops or computers.

The availability of this free service means that customers can browse, download and read items 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The app is available for iOS and Android phones, tablets and Kindle Fire.

Customers can also use Adobe Digital Editions to read the items on their desktop computer or laptop and several new e-audio books will also be available on simultaneous download in January.

You can call in at your local library to find out more and take a look at the resources that are available or for more information, go to www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries or call 0300 123 6703.

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Farmers warned to heed health and safety rules or face serious penalties

Report by **Kenny Parker**

HSE will soon begin carrying out inspections on farms across the country.

FARMERS are being warned by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) that they must pay closer attention to how they manage workplace risk or face serious penalties.

Agriculture has the poorest record of any industry in Britain. Latest figures show that 33 people were killed in agriculture across Britain in 2017/18 - around 18 times higher than the all-industry fatal injury rate. And the HSE says it will soon begin a programme of inspections to review health and safety standards on farms across the country.

The inspections will aim to ensure that those responsible for protecting themselves and workers are doing the right things to comply with the law and prevent death, injury and ill-health. If not, the executive says it will not hesitate to use enforcement to bring about improvements.

Inspectors will be checking that risks are being controlled in specific areas including machinery, falls from height, children and livestock.

The announcement follows a series of compliance events developed as a result of research into farmers' attitudes to risk and aimed at changing behaviours in the industry. Farmers in the North West were given the opportunity to attend one of these events, paid for by HSE, to help them comply with the law and prepare for the inspections.

Now the executive says it is following up to make sure that all farms in the area "are doing the right thing."

HSE's head of agriculture, Rick Brunt, said: "We are seeing signs of a change in attitude across the farming industry and while this is encouraging, these inspections act as a reminder to farmers of the importance of managing risks so that everyone can go home from their work healthy.

"Everyone involved in farming has a role to play. Those working in the industry need to understand the risks they face and the simple ways they can be managed. Those that work with the industry can be part of the change that is so badly needed.

"Farmers, managers and workers are reminded that death, injuries and cases of ill-health are not an inevitable part of farming."

Of the 33 killed in the agriculture industry during 2017/18,four were members of the public. Eight of the deaths were caused by an animal, six by a moving vehicle and five by being trapped by something collapsing. Other causes of death included falling from heights, electrocution, drowning and contact with machinery.

HSE has a range of resources and guides available to help employers and employees improve health and safety on farms. More information on what topics the inspectors will be looking at when they visit farms can be found at www.hse.gov.uk.

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School digs deep for foodbank collection

PARENTS and children at Woodland Community Primary School collected donations for the Skelmersdale foodbank at the Ecumenical Centre over a three-week period.

Diane Zerillo, teacher and personal, social, health and emotional co-ordinator at the school in Heathgate, said: "Usually we do a shoe box appeal for the needy in Eastern Europe but this year we decided to collect for the foodbank at the Ecumenical Centre after Rev Rick Preston gave me the information.

"We want to thank both pupils and their parents for their wonderful support which resulted in three trolleys full of food being donated.

"The collection helped us to highlight the fact that there are people in crisis who don't have enough to eat throughout the year and the helpers at the foodbank at the Ecumenical Centre are always looking for donations."

Rev Rick Preston of Skelmersdale and district foodbank with pupils and staff at Woodland Community Primary and their donations.

County council holds information evening for would-be adopters

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE County Council are staging another of their information evenings for people thinking about starting or growing their family through adoption.

The event will be held on Tuesday, January 15 at County Hall, Fishergate Hill, Preston, from 6 to 7.30pm. Following a short presentation, members of the county council's adoption team, including social workers, will be available to answer questions, talk people through the process, and offer confidential advice.

County Councillor Susie Charles, cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "We need people from all backgrounds to offer a permanent home and family to children who are not able to live with their birth family.

"You must be over 21, and live in Lancashire or close by, but whatever your race, gender, sexuality, living arrangements, age or employment status, we want to hear from you.

"What matter to us are your personal qualities and that you are able to provide a loving home where you can support and look after a child throughout their childhood and beyond."

Adoptive parents are needed for children from young babies up to eight years of age, and particularly people willing to keep families together by adopting siblings.

Trauma

Brothers and sisters are among the children who wait longest to be adopted, as there are not enough people coming forward who are able to give them a safe, permanent and loving family.

Among the 89 Lancashire children currently ready to be adopted, there are 15 two-sibling groups and three three-sibling groups.

Cllr. Charles added: "I'm hoping that we can encourage people to at least think about adopting two or more children.

"We keep brothers and sisters together whenever we can. For children who cannot be brought up by their own parents, those sibling relationships take on extra importance. In the midst of the trauma and losses these children experience, being placed with a brother or sister can be an important source of comfort and support, and give them the opportunity to grow up together.

"However, we know that adopting siblings might not be for everyone, and we still need adopters to come forward to look after children of all different ages and circumstances."

Further details about the information evening and adoption in general are available online at www.lancashire.gov.uk/adoption or by calling the adoption team on 0300 123 6723.

There's no need to book for the adoption information evening, people can just turn up. Free parking is available on the Arthur Street car park, next to County Hall, and the Pitt Street entrance has disabled access.

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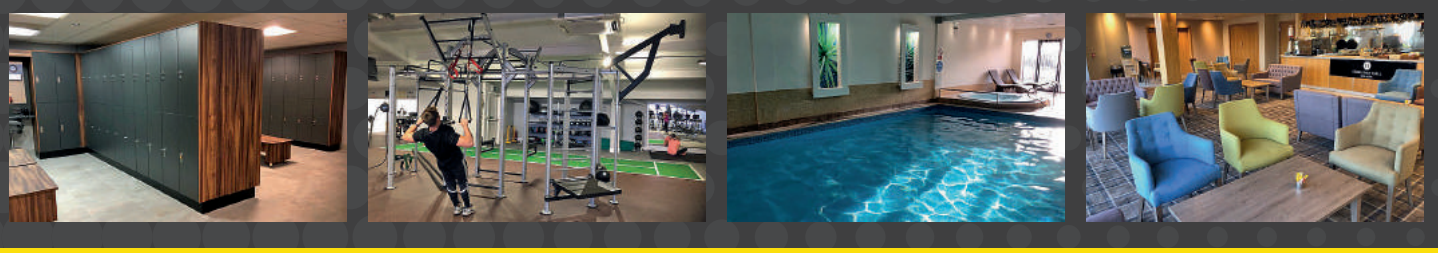

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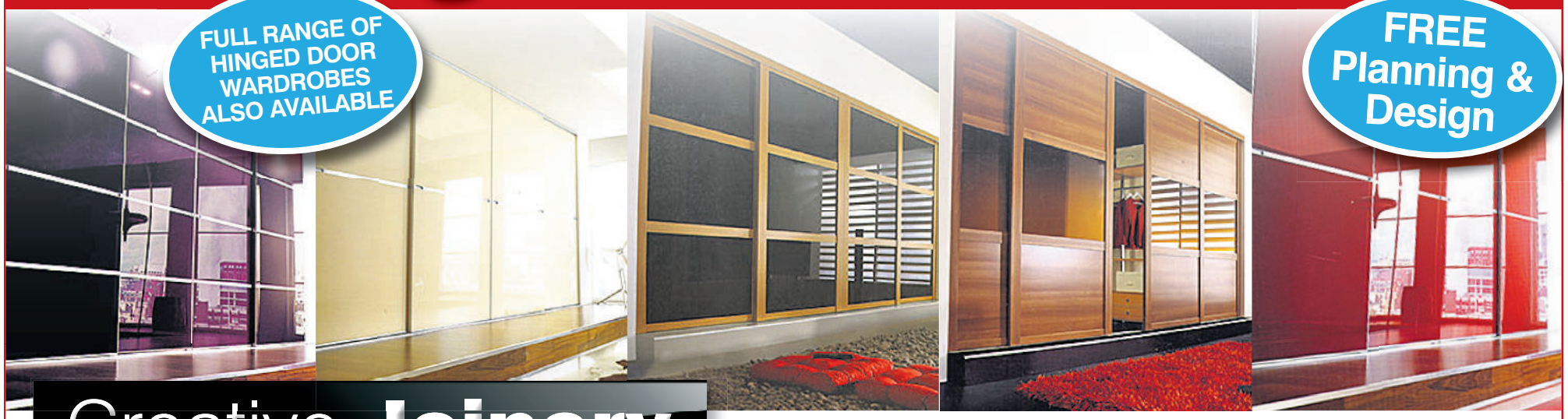

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Quartet find time out of world tour to perform in borough

PARBOLD Douglas Music is delighted to present Chiaroscuro Quartet, with violinist, Alina Ibragimova, internationally recognised for performances that are intense, refined, exploratory and poised.

The quartet will perform in the Auditorium in the Village Hall WN8 7DN on Saturday, January 26 at 7.45 p.m.

Formed in 2005, the Chiaroscuro Quartet comprises violinists Alina Ibragimova (Russia) and Pablo Hernán Benedí (Spain), the Swedish violist Emilie Hörnlund and cellist Claire Thirion from France. The Quartet is one of today's most respected period-instrument chamber groups, famed for its fiery, unforgettable performances of galvanising energy. Dubbed 'a trailblazer for the authentic performance of classical chamber music' in Gramophone, this international ensemble performs music of the Classical and early Romantic periods on gut strings and with historical bows.

Chiaroscuro Quartet

The Chiaroscuro's's unique sound – has been described in The Observer as 'a shock to the ears of the best kind'.

The Chiaroscuros usually perform standing up - Claire Thirion plays her cello Baroque-style, without a spike which adds to the fluidity of their playing, and also enables Alina Ibragimova in particular to address the audience directly instead of side-on.

Reviews of their concerts talk of the dramatic tension and passions in the music being notched up, revealing the high spirits, dynamism and daring in the works.

Chiaroscuro Quartet are on a global tour and as well as Parbold will perform in various concerts in the UK, including Wigmore Hall, Southampton and Bristol and will visit venues around the world including Japan, China, Madrid, Vienna, Washington DC, New York, Montreal and Vancouver.

To book or order tickets go online to www.parbolddouglas-music.org , E-mail: tickets@parbolddouglas-music.org or telephone: 01257 498452 (booking answerphone). There has been a strong demand for tickets for this concert and a sell-out is expected, but there is always a limited number of stand-by tickets available at the Box Office on the evening of the concert; telephone the Box Office for details.

The Parbold programme is the same as their global tour. It begins with early works by Beethoven and Mendelssohn and ends with Schubert's famed 'Death and the Maiden' quartet.

In November 2018 the Chiaroscuro released a highly praised recording of this work and it was awarded 'recording of the week' by BBC's Andrew Macgregor for its 'stark, dramatic, fiercely uncompromising and fine playing'. The quartet's unique sound is highly acclaimed by audiences and critics all over Europe and they will provide an evening of exceptional music not to be missed.

Toploader are coming to Southport

Toploader looking forward to busy 2019 and gig in town

Band to celebrate 20 years since release of their debut album

TOPLOADER are coming to the Floral Hall Ballroom at Southport theatre on Friday, February 1.

With more than 62 million streams on Spotify in 2018, Toploader are gearing up for a busy 2019 as they celebrate 20 years since the release of their debut album Onka's Big Moka, which sold more than two million copies and remained in the Top 5 of the UK album chart for more than six months earning them four Brit Award nominations.

The album featured a string of top 20 singles including global hit Dancing In The Moonlight, which spent over a year in European Airplay Charts, and the critically acclaimed fans favourite Achilles Heel. The total streams for the album now exceed 200 million making them one of the UK's most listened to bands.

To celebrate the landmark birthday Toploader are due to release a new EP, called Be Right Here, later this year and will be showcasing new material at upcoming shows along with the hits from Onka's Big Moka.

With a reputation as a crowd-pleasing live band Toploader have backed the likes of Paul Weller, Robbie Williams, Noel Gallagher, Tom Jones, Simple Minds and Bon Jovi, where they became the last British band to play the original Wembley Stadium. They have also appeared at a host of festivals including: Glastonbury, V-Festival, T In The Park and Chris Evans's CarFest.

In 2000 the single Dancing in the Moonlight became a global hit spending over a year in European Airplay Charts transforming Toploader into a household name. In 2013 the same track re-entered the Top 40 for three weekends and topped the 10,000,000 hits mark on Youtube, thirteen years after it was first released, cementing it as one of the biggest songs of recent times.

Toploader's fourth album Seeing Stars including the singles Roll With The Punches and Boom (produced by Andy Green) was released in 2017.

Show promising funny and naughty moments

RICHARD O'Brien's critically-acclaimed new production of The Rocky Horror Show is now back by public demand and returns for a 12 month UK tour featuring Blue Singer and Hollyoaks actor Duncan James as Dr. Frank-N-Furter.

Duncan James said: "Frank is such an iconic role, it's an honour to be able to play him and a role that I have always wanted to do. I'm so excited to be touring with such a fun and vibrant show, and to be working with this fantastic cast."

The legendary musical extravaganza is embarking on an extensive tour of the UK, playing the Liverpool Empire Theatre from Monday, April 29 to Saturday, May 4.

Ready to thrill audiences with fun and naughty moments, The Rocky Horror Show is the boldest bash of them all. But be warned, this show has rude parts!

Richard O'Brien wrote The Rocky Horror Show in 1973. The musical is a tribute to the science fiction and horror B movies of the late 1940s through to the early 1970s.

The show was first presented at the Royal Court Theatre in London on June 19, 1973 and moved to a number of different theatres.

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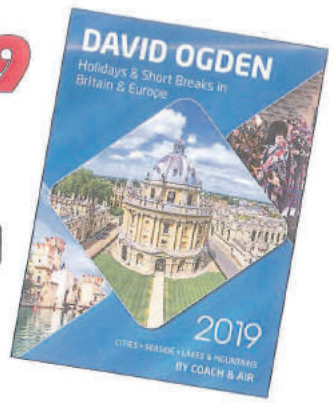

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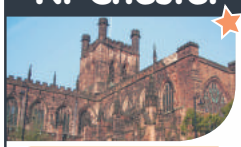

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HOUSE AND HOME

DOUBLE BED wooden complete with mattress, very good condition, guest bed so hardly used, comes to pieces £100 07715 876501

DOUBLE BED Divan bed and mattress, with drawers. In excellent condition - has only been used as a guest bed. £75 01695 421902

FREE 3 seater green Draylon settee and matching chair, also 2 wing back brown Draylon chairs, all good condition 0151 5386591

FREE small fridge, no shelves, working order, electric. Dirt King vacuum cleaner, good condition. You collect, Skelmersdale 01695 721200

FROM NEXT Rocket shaped headboard, rocket shelf and cushion, also 3 tier drawer unit (plastic) very sturdy £25, great condition 07810 092619

FUTON PRISTINE New York Futon in Mink as seen in Dunelm. Cost £399. Hardly used, great condition, will accept £120 o.n.o. 0151 9289099

MATCHING SOFAS Two Vale Capri 2 seater sofas, terracotta fabric. Hand built in solid beech. Excellent condition, unmarked. £150 each 07759374064

PAIR ROUND TABLES Matched pair chipboard bedside/occasional tables Height 62 cm diameter 50 cm. VGC £18 01704560150

REDFYRE +5 parts. Smokeless fuel system fire, bottom bricks, other small parts. I've changed to gas. Offers accepted, buyer must collect 01744 883168

ROUND TABLE 42 inch extends to 61 inch oval pedestal leg. 4 chairs solid wood excellent condition for quick sale £150 01704220356

SEWING MACHINE Singer Tradition 2250, new £80. Whole fruit juicer, Abode, new £25. Buyer to collect Bootle 0739 5873208

SHOWER TRAY white solid quad enclosure with sliding doors and waste, 1200x900mm, new still boxed, was £360, accept £200 07761 749213

SINGLE BED brand new, grey cream, 2 drawers, never been used, cost £395, sell £150 no offers. Electric convector heater, new £5 07578 704785

SMALL STORAGE CHEST White curved top.Flower pattern painted on top, and front. 18 inches High 21 Wide 15 Deep. VGC. £25 01704560150

SOFA & CHAIR Matching sofa & rotating bucket chair with half moon foot rest. Black& grey. 4 months old. Paid £1000. Asking £500 ono 01519036538

STORAGE BASKETS 2 fruit/veg storage baskets from fitted kitchen, no breaks in the wood, no longer needed, £6 for both 07590 336533

TROLLEY/TABLE wooden with barley twist legs, drawer on castors for ease of movement. Very useful. £30 could help with delivery. 0151 9281955

VARIOUS KITCHEN units/doors, medium oak redrow style/moores units for spares or additional units - call for sizes or photos 07710 791270

BATHROOM ACCESSORIES Various gold plated Bathroom Accessories. Soap dish, tumbler holder, shower caddies, towel rail, glass shelf. Used but good condition. £35 07501507897

CAROUSEL SHELF 1/2 circle grey plastic corner cabinet shelf. Top shelf swivels. Fits 800-1000mm corner floor kitchen unit.
Bargain £35 ono 01704573196

DOUBLE BED Sleigh style Double Bed complete with pocket spring mattress. Brown faux leather. Hardly used. Excellent condition. £140.00 07501507897

INDIA RUG 100% wool hand made large rug mixed colours size aprox 298x202cm. Excellent condition. Smoke & pet free home. Bargain £150 0151 2849148

ROLL TOP slipper bath in white Length 66inch/height 25inch/width 28inch tap end 26inch. including Taps and shower attachment like new bargain £150 01704220356

SONGBIRD JEWELLERY box. Domed Top 18x6.5x7 Brass lock and hinges. Stained black with yellow lid. £20. Wooden birdstand 5ft high Red £10 0151 2811535

DINING TABLE Large modern mahogany style dropleaf, 60"x42".When folded 14"wide,easy movable on locking castors excellent condition. £55 01704573645 mob07543145602

MISC

DRIVER DUNLOPE max 10% loft really nice golf club bargain £15 07773242918

CHRISTMAS TREE 7ft with stand, used once, cost £85, will accept £35, buyer collects 0151 2843195

CIGARETTE CARDS from 1920s 30s 40s all in there boxes over 50 sets call for details 07773242918

DARTBOARD good quality as new as used on tele comes with 1 nice set of darts bargain £15 07773242918

HOLLY STATUE Our lady, 15.5 inches high. In lovely condition, can send pictures if required. Bargain £12.00 07387439004

I PHONE I phone 5s 16gb unlocked slight crack top LHside does not interfere with working £40 01695 420950

OLD LIVERPOOL fc 1970s Mugs Made by coffer collectors items about 10 to choose from call for details 07773242918

2 SEATER leather couch, cream, vgc £65 ono. Long coffee table, vgc £75 ono. Mountain bike, ex con £60 ono. Buyer collects 07860 605607

CARBOOT ITEMS At least 60 items, ideal for car boot from a clean home. Some new items included £35.00.
07387439004

ELECTRIC JONES sewing machine with carrying case £15. Picquot ware hot water jug and Cream jug excellent condition £10 Ormskirk 07553 928344

HENRI LLOYD cream jacket Large £35. Tudor gold basin taps never used £30 ono. 5pt of golf clubs, bag, balls, tees £40 07933 578795

MISC

MOVIE POSTERS genuine cinema movie posters: The Mummy, Churchill, Skyscraper, Paddington, Animal Crackers, all £5 each 07791 173019

SHOWER HEADS x 2, one rainfall, one hand-held, top of the range shower seat, all bought Sep 2017, offers £100 01695 578830

BEREAVEMENT ITEMS Numerous items including, mirrors, pictures, table lamp, occasional table, small tools, garden tools. Royal Dalton and Nao figures-From £5.00 each 07387439004

MOBILITY

WREN SWIFT SCOOTER used twice. Cost £1450, 8 mph, 30 miles on full charge, still under warranty. £850 ovno Tel: 07754 506876

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COLLAPSIBLE WHEELCHAIR collapses like child's buggy, very light, £30 01695 579858

MOBILITY WALKER tri walker very strong sturdy design £35 07741206449

SELF PROPELLED wheelchair, good condition, first to see will buy £60 0151 5268389

WALKING AID for indoor use, has 2 trays and locking brakes, as new £25 Southport 214498

WHEELCHAIR Good condition, self propelling. £50 01695 731794

3 WHEELED mobility walker with lockable handbrakes, adjustable height, can deliver £30 07845529249

4 WHEELED mobility walker with seat, backrest and locking hand brakes, can deliver £40 Southport 214498

SELF-PROPELLED wheelchair, very good condition, very comfortable, can deliver £65 Southport 214498

TRANSIT WHEELCHAIR solid tyres, very comfortable, easily folds for transport, can deliver £55 07845529249

EVOLUTION 8 Large Mobility Scooter, twin speed, lights, recent new batteries and motor, good condition £300 Longton but can deliver 07850-935406

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WHEELCHAIR COMODE brand new and unused, has footrests, armrests, and locking hand brakes, can deliver £40 southport 214498

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MOTHER AND BABY

BABY GYM Fisher Price Rainforest Gym. Owned from new. In excellent clean condition. Smoke free home. £20 01695 421902

BABY WALKER Chicco baby walker with lights and sounds activity panel. Height adjustable. Smoke free home and in good condition. £20 01695 421902

MOTHERCARE COT Pine cot with adjustable height. Mattress included. Excellent condition. H100cm L126cm W66cm £60 07986806625

TENS MACHINE Mama Tens Maternity Kit includes Tens unit, cord, belt clip, case, electrode pads. Owned from new and boxed. £25 01695 421902

WOODEN COT Mothercare Cot, Wooden Natural Beech, Dropside, Protective Teething Rails, 2 Mattress Positions, Excellent Conditions, £40 07846 182639

MACLAREN PUSHCHAIR Top Quality Maclaren Techno XT Pushchair, Black, With Rain Cover, Universal Footmuff, With Sunshine Umbrella, Excellent Condition, £90 07846 182639

MOTORING

'CAR' MAGAZINES 20 in all, £5 to first caller, buyer collects 07576 994111

MOTORING

NISSAN MICRA Haynes manual & oil filter for Mark II. £8.00 07810338675

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PUNTO WHEEL Fiat Punto Grande steel wheel with 175/65 R15 radial tyre in excellent condition.£45. 07968914294

CAR BATTERY Yuasa YBX5075 High Performance Starter Battery, Silver. New In box. (Delivered too late for me) £55 ono 07932629888

AUDI ROOFBARS Audi Q5/SQ5 Roofbars, Original Audi Equipment brand, For 2009 models onwards, Carry Bag & Key Included, Excellent Condition, Never Used £50 0787 2605731

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PETS

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SPORTS EQUIPMENT

TREADMILL Dynamix foldaway 12 programme £130 Tel:07960 088205

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REEBOK TRADMILL Z7. Run with oil books £200 ono 07947 144728

CALLAWAY DRIVER Callaway diablo driver 9.5 dg loft aldila habanero shaft good condition with headcover £45 07467098657

GOLF CLUBS driver 6 iron 2 iron hybrid putter plus small lightweight bag ideal for beginner £25.00 07773242918

GOLF SET 13 Clubs complete with bag and Dunlop trolley. Would suit beginner or teenager. Newburgh WN8. 07779 074816

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

TREADMILL confidence power plus, very good condition £40. Halfords go-kart, suit 3-5 year old, good condition £35 07736 416769

CROSS TRAINER Monitors speed, distance and calories burned; has transportation wheels. H-151cm W-63cm D-92cm. Good Condition. £45 ONO. 07757262904

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Parkhaven Trust

REGISTERED MANAGER
James Page House Nursing Home

Salary £33,895 per annum
35 hours per week

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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE | Gold

Closing date: 31st January 2019
Interview date: 7th February 2019

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Parkhaven Trust

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We have a New Nursing Home planned for May 2019. The new dementia unit will have 30 dementia beds and 15 intensive nursing care beds. A range of opportunities will be available in our new service which will be advertised nearer the time.

Looking for a working arrangement that fits with your personal commitments? As part of our workforce strategy we have introduced a staffing pool for Bank staff for all positions to work across our sites in Maghull.

More information can be found on our website
www.parkhaven.org.uk

For an application pack, please call our 24hr recruitment line on **0151 527 3667** or email:
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THE WORKPLACE WELLBEING CHARTER NATIONAL AWARD – ENGLAND
INVESTORS IN PEOPLE | Gold

Closing date: 31st January 2019

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(CHURCH STREET, ORMSKIRK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(REVOCATION AND ONE WAY TRAFFIC) ORDER 201*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council propose to make the above Traffic Regulation Order under Sections 1, 2 and 4 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the **Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to:

1. Revoke the "Lancashire County Council (Aughton Street, Burscough Street, Church Street and Moor Street, Ormskirk, West Lancashire Borough) (Revocation and Introduction of Prohibition of Driving (Except Loading) And One Way Traffic) Order 2017" insofar as it relates to Item a) of Schedule 2.
2. Introduce one way traffic in Church Street, Ormskirk, in a south-easterly direction, from a point 27 metres south east of its junction with the centreline of the A570, Park Road to its junction with Aughton Street, Burscough Street and Moor Street.

A copy of the draft Order and associated documents for proposing to make the Order may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of West Lancashire Borough Council, PO Box 16, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DF, and at the offices of The Director of Corporate Services, Lancashire County Council, Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ, and on Lancashire County Councils Website http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/roads/roadworks-and-traffic-regulation-orders/permanent.aspx. Any representations or objections (specifying the grounds on which they are made) relating to the proposal must be made in writing and should be sent to The Director of Corporate Services, Lancashire County Council, P O Box 78, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ or by e-mail to tro-consultation@lancashire.gov.uk quoting ref:LSG4\894.8969\AFR before the 06 February 2019.

Laura Sales, Director of Corporate Services
09 January 2019

www.lancashire.gov.uk
Lancashire County Council

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/1190/FUL Full planning permission for the demolition of existing building and erection of a foodstore (Use Class A1) and office development (Use Class B1) with associated car parking and servicing areas with hard and soft landscaping at The Bay Leaf, Liverpool Road, Tarleton.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

2018/1267/FUL Change of use of former farm buildings to Use Class B8 at Altcar Hall Farm, 2 Lord Sefton Way, Great Altcar.
The application affects a Listed Building.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2018/1288/FUL Erection of permanent timber cabin as school nursery classroom at Maharishi School, Cobbs Brow Lane, Newburgh.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

2018/1305/COU Change of use of first floor one bedroom flat above hair salon into additional salon space at Salon One, 1 Railway Road, Ormskirk.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2018/1322/FUL Change of use from Magistrates Court (Sui Generis) and extension to create 23 No. Aparthotel (C1) and Restaurant (A3) at 7 Derby Street, Ormskirk.
The application affects a Listed Building.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2018/1323/LBC Listed Building Consent - Change of Use from Magistrates Court (Sui Generis) and Extension to create 23no. Aparthotel (C1) and Restaurant (A3) at 7 Derby Street, Ormskirk.
The application affects a Listed Building.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2018/1325/FUL Garage conversion to form Granny annexe and single storey link extension at 24 Alder Lane, Parbold.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e-mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 24 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

How information about you will be used
The personal data you provide will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties in processing planning and related applications. Some of the personal information, including your name and address, you provide will be published. For further information about this notice or how we use your personal data please see: http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-privacy-notices/level-2-development-management-cil-privacy-notice.aspx and http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/legal-statements-and-foi/privacy-and-data-protection-gdpr.aspx. Hard copies are available on request.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Director of Development and Regeneration
Dated: 9th January 2019 PDNOT1027

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council Village Shop Rate Relief Scheme [Local Government and Rating Act 1997]

Under the provisions of the above Act the Council has produced an updated draft Rural Settlement List (the List) which identifies any rural settlement which is wholly or partly within the designated rural area (as specified by the Secretary of State).

The List is available for public inspection, free of charge at the Offices of West Lancashire Borough Council, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk until, **31/03/2020 on Mondays to Thursdays from 9.00am to 5.00pm, Fridays from 9.00am to 4.45pm The List will take effect from 1/4/2019**

Any qualifying Post Office, General Store, Food Store, Public House or Petrol Filling Station situated within a rural settlement as identified on the List, may be entitled to either Mandatory or Discretionary rate relief under this scheme. For application forms for rate relief, general information and advice please contact the Business Rates Team at the offices of West Lancashire Borough Council.

Dated: 9th January 2019

Kim Webber B.Sc., M.Sc.,
Chief Executive
West Lancashire Borough Council
52 Derby Street, Ormskirk
Lancashire, L39 2DF
01695 587158
www.westlancs.gov.uk

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Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Karen Marie Newton trading as KAST Logistics LTD is applying for a licence to use Graylaw Freight Group, Gillibrands Road, Skelmersdale, Lancashire, WA8 9TA as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicle and 3 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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DEATHS

CUNLIFFE MAUREEN HEATHER (MO)

26th December 2018
Aged 66 Years

Passed away peacefully after a short illness. Loving Wife of Peter. Much loved Mum of Kevin & Stephen, Mother-in-law to Kelley & Caroline. Cherished Nana of Calum, Mary, Anna, Maisie & Charlie. Mo will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Ormskirk, L40 7SP on Friday 11th January at 2:30pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being collected for Dementia UK. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

SUMMERS LESLEY EDWINA (LES)

Passed away at home on 21st December 2018 aged 70 years of Westhead

Loved Sister of Jackie, Aunty of Claire and Dan, Fondly remembered by her Great Nephews Jay, Ben and Josh. Funeral Service at West Lancs Crematorium on Thursday 17th January 2019 at 1.00 pm. Family flowers only please by request but donations if so desired for Macmillan Nurses.

Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton Tel: 01695 424888

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

BARTON MURIEL

of Rufford
Passed away peacefully 30th December 2018 surrounded by her family at Queenscourt Hospice

Loving Wife to David, Mum to Fiona, Grandma to Isla. Muriel will be missed by her many friends and all who knew her. Funeral service to take place at St Mary the Virgin Church, Church Road, Rufford, Lancashire at 11am on Thursday 17th January 2019 followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough. Family flowers only please, however donations if desired are being collected in fond memory of Muriel for Queenscourt Hospice

Further enquiries to NEWLAND & WILKINSON Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton. 01772 811165.

DAVEY (NEE BALL) KATHLEEN MARGARET (KATE)

Passed away January 4th in Campbell River, BC, Canada.
Formerly of Burscough

Dearly beloved Wife of Geoff, dear Mother of Anne, Jim and Cath. Sister to John, Michael and David (dec'd) Sister-in-law to Doris and Noreen (dec'd) Sadly missed by all her Nephews and Nieces.

BIRCH WILLIAM EDWARD (BILLY)

23rd November 2018
Aged 74 years

Loving Son of Edna. Cherished Brother of Robert, Sidney and Barbara. Billy will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough, L40 7SP on Tuesday 15th January at 10:45am. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being collected for British Thyroid Foundation. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

TOMLINSON LOUISE

2nd January 2019
Peacefully in hospital of Ormskirk

A loving Mum, Grandma, Great Grandma and friend. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Friday 11th January 2019 at 10:45am. Floral tributes welcome. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Ormskirk, Skelmersdale & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

THOMPSON GORDON

26th December 2018
Peacefully aged 74 years

Devoted Husband to Carole. Loving Dad to Suzy and Chris, Grandad to Lucy, James, Finlay and Cillian. Service Of Celebration at Haskayne Village Hall on Friday January 18th 2019 at 2:00pm. "Ship, Kings and U3A musicians old and new come armed, he needs a good send off". Family flowers only please but donations for Macmillan Cancer Support c/o Graham J Clegg Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road, Maghull, Merseyside L31 5JB Tel: 0151 520 3330.

BILLINGTON GEORGE

Sadly Departed
3rd January 2019

Sadly taken from us all but now in peace with Elsie, an Uncle, mate, friend who shared many of the happy times in my life as a child and more so in later life, we had a great bond which will always be with me, it seems so strange to not have you as part of my life now, love you forever, Clive, Carole, Annette, Helen, Stephen and Family

HOLLAND VIOLET (VI)

Passed away peacefully 28th December 2018 aged 77 years

Much loved Wife of David. Mum of Deborah and Angela. Loving Granny of Emma, Henry, Leigh, Becky & Jack and Great Granny of Ava and Isla. Funeral Service will take place at Lathom Park Chapel on Monday 28th January 2019 at 11.30am, followed by Committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only please, but donations are being gratefully received by the family for Lathom Park Chapel and Alzheimers Society. Special thanks to all at Alsley Lodge and to Dr Saunders at Parkgate Surgery. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770

GASKELL EDWARD MELVYN

30th December 2018
Passed away peacefully in hospital
Aged 85 years
of Parbold

Dearly loved Husband of Doreen, Much loved Dad and Grandpa. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium at Burscough on Tuesday 15th January at 11:30 am. Family flowers only please but donations if so desired to Derian House Children's Hospice and Mawdesley Cricket Club.

Donations and further enquires please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors 22a Liverpool Road North, Burscough, Tel: 01704 891555

HUGHES LESLIE

24th December 2018
Peacefully at his home in Skelmersdale aged 73 years

The dearly loved Husband of Ivy, loving Step Dad to Joseph, Steven, Michael and Paul, devoted Grandad to all his Grandchildren and much loved Brother of Ronnie, Kenny, Irene, Susan and Glyn. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Thursday 10th January 2019 at 10:45am. No flowers by request, donations if desired for Oncology Dept. Southport Hospital.

All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

O'CALLAGHAN PATRICK JOSEPH

Passed away peacefully 30th December 2018
aged 87 years
of Southport

Dearly Loved Husband of the late Eileen, Much Loved Dad of Michael, Tony, Kevin, Keith & Patrick. Loved and missed by all his family and Friends. Requiem Mass at 12 noon at Sacred Heart Church, Ainsdale, Southport, on Wednesday 16th January 2019, Followed Interment at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Ainsdale, Southport. Family flowers only please by request, but donations are being gratefully received for St Vincent de Paul.

Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton. Tel:01695 424888.

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DEATHS

PARKINSON IRIS

23rd December 2018
Peacefully at Hampton Court Nursing Home, Southport
aged 87 years
of Ormskirk

The dearly loved Wife of the late Edward, loving Mum of Hazel and Heather, dear Mother in law of John and Tony, devoted Nan of Richard, Paula and Charlotte and Great Nan to Libby and Myla.
Funeral service and interment took place on Monday 7th January 2019 at Ormskirk Parish Church. If desired donations are being gratefullty received for the Alzheimers Society.

All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Ormskirk, Skelmersdale & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

PHILLIPSON JOYCE

(nee MOLYNEUX)

25th December 2018
Peacefully in hospital after a long illness
aged 83 years of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Wife of the late Joseph, loving Mum of Diane, Michelle, Keiron and John (Joe), devoted Nan of Stuart, Liam, Emma, Andrew, Elishia and Leon and Great Nan to all her Great Grandchildren.
Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Skelmersdale on Monday 14th January 2019 at 2:00pm followed by interment at West Lancashire Cemetery, Burscough. Floral tributes welcome.

All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Indepedent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

STEWART MAUREEN

(nee Joinson, formerly Wood)

3rd January 2019
Peacefully in hospital
aged 85 years
of Ormskirk

Dearly loved Wife of Brian, Loving Mum of Jane and Andrew, Mother in law to Brian and Jane, Grandma to Sam, Jessica, Harrie and Megan, Great Grandma to Skylar Jane, Sister to Rita and Sister in law to Bob.
The Funeral Service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Friday 18th January at 11.30am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Claire House, Clatterbridge Road, Newington, Wirral, CH63 4JD (www.claire_house.org.uk)

All enquiries to Melanie Hardman of H.Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors, Marlborough House, Witham Road, Skelmersdale Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

THOMPSON (NEE TAYLOR) JEAN

Sadly passed away in Royal Preston Hospital on 28th December 2018 after a short illness aged 86 years old and of Hesketh Bank.
A beloved Wife to Jack (deceased), a devoted Mother to Ian and Mark and Mother-in-law to Joy and Gillian. Much loved Nanna to Nicola, Michelle, Adam and Sam and doting Great-Grandma to Jack, Charlie, Archie, Pippa and Noah.

"She will be sadly missed by so many but cherished forever"

The funeral service will take place at Hesketh Lane Methodist Chapel on Friday 11th January at 11.30 a.m. followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium.
Family flowers only please, but donations in Jean's memory would be welcome to The British Heart Foundation and also in Jack's continued memory to Leukaemia UK c/o the family. Inquiries to G C Whalley and Daughter, Churchside Funeral Home, Longton. Tel: 01772 612900 or 612848.

DEATHS

INSTONE MELVYN JONAH

Peacefully in Queenscourt Hospice on 30th December 2018
Aged 72 years

Dearly beloved Husband of Joyce. Much loved Dad to David, Suzy, Paula and Darren. Dear Father-in-law to Helen, Darren, Derrick and Kerrie. Loving Grandad to Philip, Danny, Amy, Jodie, Darren, Joe, David, Adam, Alex, Charlotte, Olivia and Katie. Also Great Grandad to Pippy. Loving Brother of Glenda, the late Barry, Wayne, Wendy and Debbie and a much loved Uncle to all his Nieces and Nephews. Melvyn will be sadly missed by all who knew him.
Funeral service and committal will take place at St Johns Church, St Johns Road, Birkdale PR8 4JP on Friday 11th January at 10am followed by cremation at West Lancs Crematorium, Pippin Street, Ormskirk L40 7SP at 11.30am, then back to the Conservative Club, Birkdale Village for a celebration of Melvyns life. Family flowers only but donations will be greatly received for Queenscourt Hospice and Southport Dialysis Unit. Further enquiries to Co-op Funeralcare Birkdale, 254 Liverpool Road, Birkdale PR8 4PD. Telephone 01704 550011

DEATHS

BILLINGTON GEORGE

3rd January 2019

To my dear Husband. Life will never be the same without you. I know you're pain free now and reunited with your lovely Elsie.

Love you forever, my 'Husband and Soulmate'

Till we meet again sweetheart.
Your loving Wife Christine
xxx

BILLINGTON GEORGE

3rd January 2019

Although you can't be here with us, we're truly not apart.
Until the final breath we take,
you're always in our hearts.
Love you Grandpop, love you forever.
Rest easy up there.

Your heartbroken Grandsons and Grandchildren Richard, Daniel, Kerri, Jayden and Sonney
xxxxx

BILLINGTON GEORGE

3rd January 2019

Dearest Brother in law and much loved Uncle of Hilda and Sylvia and families.

"Back with our Elsie"

Miss you so much George

X

DEATHS

BILLINGTON GEORGE

3rd January 2019
Peacefully aged 81 years

Loving Husband, Dad, Grandad, Great Grandad and Uncle. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral service willl take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Thursday 17th January at 10am. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Cancer Research UK. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel:01695 559868

BILLINGTON GEORGE

3rd January 2019

We sat beside your bedside, our hearts were crushed and sore.
We did our duty to the end, till we could do no more.
In tears we watched you sinking, we watched you fade away, and though our hearts were fading, we knew you could not stay.
Our Mum came down from Heaven to show you the way, reunited in Heaven together at last.

From your heartbroken Sons Derek and Alan and Daughter in law Dawn.
xxx

BILLINGTON GEORGE

3rd January 2019

In loving memory of our beloved Father who will be missed and always loved by his Children, Wife, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.
To the most loving, caring man you could have known.
Rest in peace Dad.
Conner, Liam, Adam and Anthony.
xxxx

DEATHS

O'MALLEY MARGARET

On 23rd December 2018
At Home aged 87 years
R.I.P.
Beloved Wife of George, loving Mum of Brenda, Anthony and Philip, dear Mother in law of Peter (deceased), Sheila and Kath, and a much loved Grandma of all her Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.
Requiem Mass will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Thursday 10th January at 11:00am, followed by the interment at Sacred Heart Cemetery.
Family flowers only by request donations if so desired for HCPT. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel: 01704 214118.

SPALL MARGARET

25th December 2018
Peacefully in Southport hospital in the early hours of Christmas Day
Aged 86 years
Dearly Beloved Wife of Kevin and Devoted Mother of Michael, Jonathan and Stephen and Grandmother to Alex, Josh, Dom, Alice, Katie and Eddie.
A Nurse all her life and a JP at Bootle.
Will be sadly missed by family and friends.
Funeral Mass on Tuesday 15th January 2019 at St Jeromes Church, Formby at 10.00am followed by Committal at Southport Crematorium at 11.20am.
No flowers please, but donations if desired to Macmillan Cancer Support, c/o and all enquiries to Coyne Bros Funeral Directors, 3 Old Mill Lane, Formby. L37 3PE Tel. 01704 873899

COULTON LEONARD (LEN)

Passed away peacefully at Silverbirch Lodge Aughton on
23rd December 2018
aged 79 years

Dearly Loved Husband of Delia, Much Loved Brother of Joan and Brother in law of Les. Loved and missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at West Lancs Crematorium on Thursday 10th January 2019 at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only please by request, but donations are being gratefully received for Parkinsons Ormskirk.

Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton Tel: 01695 424888.

PHILBIN MARGARET

29th December 2018
Peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family
aged 73 years

Loving Wife of Michael.
Devoted Mum of Cheryl and Ann.
Dear Mother-in-law of Chris and Neil.
Cherished Nannie of Adam, Connor, Matthew, Thomas and Holly. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Friday 11th January at 10am. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice.
All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

WHITTLE JANE

Passed Away
14th December 2018
Mum to Rosalyn, Michelle, Annabelle & Joe.

G-Mar to Ruby Jane.

Jane will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Funeral service to take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Friday 11th January 2019 at 1.45pm.

Family flowers only please, for donation information please contact the Funeral Directors.

Further Enquiries to Newland & Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, Lancashire. PR4 6RJ. Telephone 01772 811165

ARNOT CHRISTINA (CHRISSIE)

1st January 2019
Aged 99 years
Died peacefully at Rowan Tree Lodge Nursing Home. Devoted Wife of the late Andrew. Loving Mum of Christine & Hazel. Much loved Grandma & Great Grandma to all of her grandchildren.
Chrissie will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 11th January at 11:20am. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being collected for Dogs Trust. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

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SEAN ROPER
21 today
08/01/2019

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Love from

Mum, Dad, Adele and Luke x

Love Always

Shannon and Scarlett x

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

KILLEEN BERYL
Much loved Wife and Mum
9th January

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In the hearts and minds...
Of the loving family
You left behind.

Ronnie, Andrew,
Sandra and family

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IN MEMORIAM

HENDERSON DON

One Year Today

15th January 2019

My Darling Don

Miss you so much it hurts

If tears could build a stairway
And memories a lane
I'd walk right up to Heaven
And bring you home again.
Miss you every second of the day.

Your ever loving Wife
Jean
Love Always
XXXXXX

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EMERY TOM

The Family of Tom Emery would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to all relatives, friends, neighbours and colleagues.
We have been overwhelmed with the many messages of condolences, sympathy cards and donations received.
To all of those who have helped us in any way your contribution made our loss more bearable.It would be impossible to thank everyone individually please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our deepest gratitude.

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KENDALL RICHARD

Hazel, Andrea and Joanne would like to thank all who attended the funeral. The cards, many words of sympathy and kind support at such a difficult time.

Thanks to Rector David Reynolds for his warm ministrations.

Hurlston Hall for their hospitality.

Special thanks to all at Queenscourt Hospice for the exemplary care to both Richard and his family.

Finally, a grateful appreciation to Claire, Dave and their team at Newland & Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors for their dignified funeral arrangements and continued care.

BARTON GEORGE FREDERICK

Rosanne and Family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for all the many messages of condolence, sympathy cards and donations received for Queenscourt Hospice, during their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Dr. Bishop-Cornett and Ward 11b at Southport General Hospital for their kindness and care given, and also to Sally Hunter & the team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for her professional and dignified funeral arrangements.

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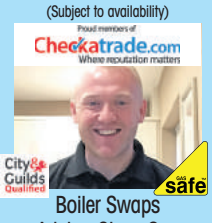
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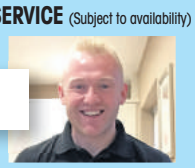
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Honda has already won awards for its daringly different Urban EV

IT'S A SLIGHTLY strange child who gives the Ford Puma pride of place on their bedroom wall, beside the Ferrari F355, Lamborghini Diablo and TVR Cerbera.

But this isn't just any old bedroom wall – it's mine, circa 1996. I mention this curious gallery of petrolhead goodness, where even a *Wannabe*-era Geri Halliwell didn't make an appearance because there were so many cars to peruse, since price, fuel economy, MPG and insurance groups didn't matter one jot.

A car just had to look great and have a certain panache about it, so a tiny Fiesta-based coupe which later developed a horrendous reputation for wheelarch rot made it up there.

But were I to have a pint-sized Simister nurturing a passion for cars I'm not sure any of today's more affordable offerings would qualify for a few inches of bedroom wall real estate. I had a look through some of the new cars due to hit the showrooms later in 2019 and once you dip into the real world realms of cars that aren't an Aston Martin Valkyrie or Aventador SVJ there's an endless succession of anonymous crossovers.

Even the Polestar 1 – which looks like a posh Volvo, because essentially it *is* one – is expected to cost upwards of £100,000.

But there is one that I'm really, really looking forward to. The Honda Urban EV has a delightfully Ronseal name – it's an electric city car made by the chaps who brought you the Jazz – but it's so much more than that.

When it struck a pose at the world's motor shows about 18 months ago it made so many jaws drop that it was promptly named as 2018's World Concept Car of the Year, and since then Honda has said that it'll appear, virtually unchanged, in showrooms here as a fully-fledged production model.

Good. There are plenty of electric cars out there that'll do everything you ask of them (which is why UK sales were up 69 per cent in 2018), but only the endearingly bonkers but utterly impractical Renault Twizy and the lovely-but-pricey Jaguar I-Pace have even registered on the Simister want-one radar. With the Urban EV there might be a third, because it looks like it's escaped from the set of *Ready Player One*.

It has that reimagined Eighties look that's so in vogue at the minute completely nailed; take the 'H' badge off it and I'd swear the chunky, bluff-fronted grille, round headlights, skinny window pillars and tight proportions screamed MkI Golf.

In fact, I can just imagine the Urban EV with a red stripe around the edges of the grille and a GTI badge on the back! Inside it's brave too – two benches instead of individual seats, and a huge, touch screen slab rather than a dashboard.

In fact, there's only one problem – the Renault Wind, Toyota IQ and Nissan Cube were also uncompromisingly brave small cars that won me over, and none of them were exactly sales hits here. So essentially, if precedent for praising small cars in these pages is anything to go by, I've just given the Urban EV the kiss of death.

Sorry about that, Honda. I really hope I'm wrong this time!

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

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SKODA'S go-faster Kodaq will be out in spring

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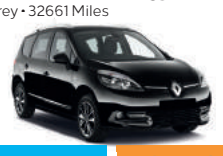

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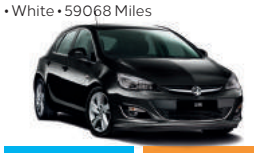

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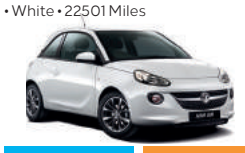

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47 Monthly Payments	£259.98	**APR Representative**	4.2%

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Jordan Lorde celebrates his goal with Burscough manager Terry Green. Picture by Marc Taylor.

Away win makes in nine games unbeaten for the Linnets

West Didsbury & Chorlton 1
Burscough 4

BURSCOUGH extended their unbeaten league run to nine games with their sixth away win of the season on Saturday.

At the same time they defeated two former Linnets, in ex-boss Dave Powell who has taken over as manager at the Brookburn Road club after leaving Skelmersdale and legendary Burscough striker Ciaran Kilheeney who was in the hosts' line-up.

Burscough were without regular defensive partners Luke Gibson and Danny Brady.

It might have been a different story though as West Didsbury had the ball in the Burscough net in the ninth minute, Kilheeney heading home but having his celebrations curtailed by a raised assistant's flag.

In the 14th minute Burscough struck. Prince Ekpolo firing the ball low past keeper Burgess.

West Didsbury fought back but the Linnets defence were having none of it and held them pretty much at arm's length when they went onto the offensive.

Just on the half-hour Burscough gave themselves a level of security with a second goal.

The home defence struggled to clear the ball as Burscough harassed them, the ball fell to Connor Finlayson and it was 2-0.

Manager Terry Green has put together a confident outfit since his arrival at Burscough and after settling down they had dominated the first half of the game, limiting West Didsbury to not much in the way of chances when they did attack.

Soon after the interval Burscough had one big scare, Steve Hall set up Kilheeney but he pushed the ball past the post and Burscough could breathe again.

In the 55th minute Burscough went 3-0 up, some over elaborate passing in the home defence was punished by some pressing Linnets forwards, Jordan Lorde intercepted a ball across the backline and gave keeper Burgess no chance at all with his shot at goal.

West Didsbury did get some brief hope eight minutes from the end Joe Faux cutting in from the right-wing and firing a commendable shot across Burscough goalkeeper Max Povey and into the far corner of the net.

However, the hopes the home team had was completely killed off in the 86th minute, Chad Whyte making sure his name was on the match day honours list with his 28th goal of the season.

It was an excellent win for a patched up Burscough lifting them into fifth place in the North-West Counties Premier Division table.

Ssince Dave Powell's arrival in the west of Manchester West Didsbury hadn't lost at home as they moved out of the relegation zone, so they posed serious opposition.

Burscough will have to find similar form if they are to retain their unbeaten run next week as they face the daunting task of travelling to Congleton Town who are second in the league and have only dropped six points at home all season.

Struggling Skem hit for six by Trafford

Skelmersdale United 1
Trafford 6

IT was a bad day for Skelmersdale on Saturday as they suffered a big defeat at the hands of Trafford at Volair Park, with manager Paul McNally absent due to a commitment that was made before he was appointed manager.

They were soon two goals down but recovered and maintained the deficit into the second-half before another two goal burst by the visitors killed off their hopes that had been high after last week's good performance at league leaders Runcorn Linnets.

Skelmersdale were without regular goalkeeper Terry Smith because of injury but otherwise made only two other changes to a line-up that had previously done so well.

Trafford opened the scoring with just four minutes gone, the ball was held up by Dan Wilkins then slipped through the Skem backline to Matt Bryan and he directed the ball low into the net.

The visitors second goal came after Bryan outpaced the Skelmersdale defence with a run down the left, on reaching the edge of the penalty area he squared the ball across goal, presenting Declan Rydings with a one on one with Skem keeper Liam Boden, the Trafford number eleven was able to round Boden before scoring.

Skem had only scored 16 goals in 21 league games and the two goal margin represented a mountain, but they fought on and although they didn't strongly threaten the Trafford they pressed hard.

Trafford at the other end missing one golden opportunity as keeper Boden did well to narrow the angle on Rydings when the latter was through on goal.

Unfortunately Skem didn't start the second half very sharply and after just three minutes they were caught out by a neat exchange of passes just outside the penalty area, Ross Davidson duly entered the area and was tripped by Matty Coughlan, the referee judging that Coughlan wasn't the last man.

Davy Moore takes on the Trafford defence. Pictured by John Driscoll.

Former Bamber Bridge midfielder Lewis Nightingale sent Boden the wrong way from the penalty spot to make it 3-0.

For while the game got a bit feisty and both teams had players receive yellow cards but at the same time Skem had a decent spell on the offensive, Alex Griffiths doing best latching onto a loose bit of control in the Trafford defence only to see his goal bound shot tipped away for a corner by goalkeeper Elliot Wynne.

If Griffiths shot had gone in and it easily could have done, it might well have altered the whole tempo of the game but instead Trafford broke clear just after the hour and finished Skem off. Wilkins put a superbly weighted 20 yard ball down the inside right channel to Bryan, whose low shot went into the far corner from 12 yards for 4-0.

In the 77th minute Trafford number five Curtis Jones nipped onto a corner unmarked to head home and make it five before Aaron Burns was left in space on the eighteen yard line and fired home to make it six on 87 minutes.

When Griffiths pulled a goal back from close range in added time it was justice as he had worked hard all afternoon and was unlucky to be denied a goal earlier.

Big away day weekend awaits for both teams

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

SKELMERSDALE United and Burscough face important away games on Saturday and those followers who are planning to add their weight in support will have to head off south down the M6 to do so.

Skelmersdale go to Staffordshire where they will take on Newcastle Town while Burscough have a slightly shorter trip to Cheshire where they will put their nine game unbeaten league run on the line at promotion chasing Congleton Town.

The Christmas period wasn't kind to Skelmersdale United, they twice conceded six goals and once five goals, but in between they were very unlucky to lose 2-1 away to Evo-Stik Division One West leaders Runcorn Linnets. In bottom position on eight points if they are to avoid relegation to the North-West Counties League they will have to finish third from bottom, a position presently occupied by Glossop North End on sixteen points.

But with some consistency and 16 games left, it isn't an impossible task for Skem, but the current situation leaves them needing to pick up form soon.

Their next two games are ones they really could win. Newcastle Town are in 15th place on 24 points so are vulnerable, while the following week Skem are at home to Chasetown who are in 16th place on 20 points, making that game arguably a 'six pointer.'

Victory in both games would potentially put Skem within two points and touching distance of safety.

Burscough have been the North-West Counties League form team over the last couple of months and haven't lost a league game since they went down 2-0 at Barnoldswick Town on November 17.

Congleton lost 3-2 at 1874 Northwich on Saturday and have a home record that reads won seven lost two. Burscough who are now fifth in the table have won six, drawn one and lost four on their travels.

It is a measure of how far Burscough have improved since manager Terry Green's arrival and on paper it should be a tremendous encounter.

Burscough will have central defender Luke Gibson available again after a one game suspension and will have Danny Green back in the squad after a suspension.

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